

Battle lines drawn for energy war in US

President Carter last night proposed heavy tax penalties on large cars and other vehicles that make inefficient use of petrol. He also asked Congress for standby authority to increase petrol taxes by as much as 50 cents (29p) a gallon as part of a far-reaching energy conserving programme.

Heavy taxes on big, inefficient cars

Washington, April 20.—President Carter last night asked Congress for standby authority to increase petrol taxes in stages by as much as 50 cents (29p) a gallon eventually as part of a stringent programme to conserve energy.

He said he wanted power to raise the present tax of four cents a gallon by increments of five cents beginning on January 15, 1979, if consumption exceeded targets to be set.

The President, who has warned Americans to stop wasting fuel, also proposed a tax penalty, rising to \$2,488 (£1,460) by 1985 on large, inefficient cars and light lorries.

The President's programme, presented personally to a joint session of Congress, would raise the cost of domestic-produced oil to \$13.50 a barrel, the price now charged by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec).

Raising the price of new domestic natural gas in interstate commerce.

Removal of a 10 per cent excise tax on interstate buses to encourage public transport.

Tax credits for Americans who insulate their homes. The credit proposed was 25 per cent of the first \$800 spent and 15 per cent of the next \$1,400.

Tax credits for the installation of solar energy equipment as well as a programme costing up to \$100m over the next three years for its installation in Government buildings.

Mandatory standards for home appliances to make them more efficient so that they use less energy.

The abolition of discounts for large users of electricity together with lower off-peak domestic rates under certain circumstances.

Submission of the new programme to Congress opened when White House officials called the President's toughest political battle of his four-year term.

Already, advance reports of the programme have drawn criticism that the President's measures are too drastic and that his proposal for higher petrol taxes faces probable defeat in Congress.

The President, who recently stopped American production of plutonium as a fuel for nuclear power reactors, announced that he was repealing the order books for uranium enrichment services overseas.

He said he would propose legislation to guarantee the sale of enrichment services to any country which agreed to comply with American requirements aimed at banning the spread of nuclear fuel capable of use in warheads.

He barred plutonium processing in the United States because it can be used for the production of weapons as well as electricity.

The documents outlining the President's programme called inefficient cars "gas guzzlers" and proposed a graduated tax between 1978 and 1985 to penalise vehicles failing to meet approved petrol consumption standards.

A car travelling less than 12.5 miles per United States gallon in 1985 would cost a purchaser \$2,488 more than the manufacturer's price. (A United States gallon is four fifths of an imperial gallon.)

But there would be excise tax rebates for cars exceeding Government standards. One travelling 30.5 miles on a gallon of petrol would carry a rebate of \$176 in 1985.

The President's detailed programme amplified his televised address last Monday when he told the American people they must make sacrifices to meet a crisis second only in seriousness to the effort to prevent war.

His overall goals were to cut the annual growth in energy consumption from 4.6 to 2 per cent and reduce petrol consumption, now about 294 million gallons a day, by 10 per cent.

Other objectives were to reduce oil imports from the current 3,000 million to 6,000 million barrels a day, and to increase coal production by two-thirds to 1,000 million tons a year.

The President called for vigorous enforcement of the 55 mph speed limit imposed during the Arab oil embargo of 1973 as a means of saving petrol. He gave a warning that the Government might withhold highway construction funds from states which failed to enforce the limit.

He also urged industry and power companies to switch from oil and natural gas to coal and other more abundant fuels so as to reduce imports and make natural gas more widely available for household use.

The President's programme faced an uncertain future in Congress. Some critics claim he has over-emphasised conservation at the expense of increased energy production and has given the American people too frightening a picture of the energy crisis.—Reuter.



Mr Benn: determined

Showdown threat as minister demands construction of power station Electricity head defies order from Mr Benn

By Maurice Corina
Industrial Editor

A power struggle has begun with a police but firm exchange of letters between a determined Mr Woodrow Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, and a defiant Sir Arthur Hawkins, chairman of the Central Electricity Generating Board, over a Cabinet decision to bring forward an order to build the £600m Drax B coal-fired power station.

Sir Arthur has apparently refused a direct ministerial request to place contracts for the Yorkshire plant without any compensation to electricity consumers, who will have to foot the extra bills consequent upon premature construction of the Drax station.

Yesterday it was learned that Mr Benn had written to Sir Arthur to state that he was no doubt that the power station must be ordered at the earliest possible moment, and he would be grateful for immediate confirmation that the CEBG was ready without compensation, to place the necessary orders for equipment as soon as possible.

To this, Sir Arthur, a noted fighter in state industry circles against government arm-twisting of nationalised industry

chiefs, has replied that he is not aware of any argument which could be seen to invalidate the stand the CEBG has taken.

That stand, he writes, has considerable support to protect the consumer from shouldering the financial burden consequent on ordering any major power station ahead of need.

The stage now seems set for an intriguing battle of wills and a test of the Government's ability to require the CEBG to build the second stage of the Drax station, which is said to be needed to exploit the new Selby coalfield as well as help

the hard-pressed supplier of generation equipment, whose problems have been reviewed for the Cabinet by the Central Policy Review Staff.

Sir Arthur and his board are under a statutory duty to develop, maintain, efficient, coordinated and economic system of bulk electricity supply in England and Wales. The CEBG has legal obligations to the effect that Mr Benn cannot direct the board to do anything contrary to that duty.

It is the board's view that if



Sir Arthur Hawkins: defiant

Wales may be excluded from main proposals for devolution

By David Leigh
Political Staff

The Government is considering important initiatives aimed at fulfilling its promise to the Liberals, and to the Scots, that they shall have devolution. The most significant proposal, on which the Cabinet will decide shortly, is the removal of Wales from the original plans.

There is a wider implication, as well, in the strategy that is emerging. Were the present Bill to be scrapped and a new one to be introduced at the beginning of the next parliamentary session, continued Liberal cooperation would be needed to get the measure through.

That may mean some extension of the controversial compact which the Liberals, which is due to expire in the autumn under the present treaty.

Although ministers are co-ordinating round the view that Wales cannot be included in immediate plans, there is bound to be opposition to it in the Cabinet. One of the arguments the Government has repeated time and again is that it promised devolution to Wales and that the promise must be kept. If Wales has to be dealt with in a second, and separate, Bill, the odds are greater that the measure will never become law.

However, the Liberals would like a separate Bill. So would Conservative devolutionists such as Mr Heath, who argued last week for such a course.

Several of the 43 Labour rebels who refused to support the guillotine motion the failure of which effectively destroyed the first devolution Bill are Welsh. MPs such as Mr Abba (Pontypool), Mr Neil Kinnock (Bedwellty) and Mr Ioan Evans (Aberdare) might have their teeth drawn.

A new Bill in November would have to be guillotined, and that would probably require a combination of Liberal, Conservative and Labour backbench support. The Bill could then be rushed through on a tight timetable, on the ground that much debate had taken place on the earlier Bill. The promised referendum might be held next spring, instead of in the autumn, as originally envisaged.

One of the main issues on which the Government is locked in talks with the Liberals is that of taxpayers for the assembly. Ministers are discussing covering technical and legal difficulties in assigning the Scots a share of oil revenues. That leaves only a limited form of income tax as a way to an accommodation with the Liberals, who insist on revenue powers for a Scottish assembly.

Were a decision to be reached on Wales, the Government's parliamentary situation would improve strikingly. There are 11 Scottish nationalists. MPs. They supported the original devolution guillotine because they want an assembly.

As soon as the guillotine

failed, and the prospect of devolution receded, the SNP lost all interest in sustaining the Government: it voted against it on the confidence motion which precipitated the Labour-Liberal pact.

Some senior Ministers are sceptical that Wales will be dropped from the devolution plans. They point out that the Government has won one vote in the House to keep it in and that the commitment is strong.

Nevertheless, the Government has had to retreat on proportional representation, and Mr Foot, Leader of the House, has to produce an agreed package with the Liberals to be presented to the Cabinet.

It is even possible that a compromise will be reached which the Liberals will be separated from their wish, but in which Wales will not be relegated to second place. Instead, a method could be found of proceeding with two Bills simultaneously.

Trevor Fishlock writes from Cardiff: Almost everyone in the pro-devolution movement in Wales would be dismayed by a decision to leave Wales out of a new devolution Bill.

Last night, Mr Dafydd Williams, secretary of Plaid Cymru, said: "The idea that Wales should be cut out would be an absolute betrayal by the Labour Party of the people of Wales, who have given them loyal support for so many years."

Scottish TUC rebuffs militant miners

From Paul Routledge
Labour Editor
Rothsay

Government hopes of negotiating a third year of pay restraint rose yesterday when the Scottish TUC voted by a narrow margin not to follow the militant line of the miners.

By 1,017 votes to 957, a majority of 50 delegates rejected the miners' demand to oppose "any income policy having as its aim wage regulation through interference from any sources in free collective bargaining".

The Government's traditional allies, the railwaymen, mealworkers, Post Office, engineering and shop workers, electricians, and building workers rallied to prevent the STUC from going on record against the social contract. But the voting revealed a chasm in trade union opinion over what should come after the present pay curbs.

Ranged behind the miners were civil servants, public employees, local government officers, seamen, printing workers, train drivers and the Transport and General Workers' Union. Mr Jack Jones's union.

After rejecting the miners' militant policy, the delegates emphasised their desire to keep the Government in office by rejecting several proposed mass strike wage demands.

The conference rejected by

1,269 votes to 790 a train drivers' resolution demanding from August 1 a consolidation of the £6 and 4½ per cent pay rises into basic rates; restoration of differentials to the social contract was introduced; removal of anomalies created by the pay curbs; and "substantial" increases.

Appealing for support for his resolution, Mr Michael McGilchrist, the miners' communist president, argued that there was a revolution against wage restraint.

Mr Alec Donnet, of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, pleaded with delegates to adhere to the British TUC policy agreed last year for an orderly return to free collective bargaining when phase two expires at the end of July.

Senior TUC leaders will meet Mr Callaghan and senior members of his Cabinet tonight for a working dinner at 10 Downing Street at which the social contract and the future of the incomes policy will be discussed.

The Government is expected to discuss, possibly today, with union leaders the shape of the social contract.

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CBI on pay rises 24
Business features 25

Only copy of Profumo evidence was destroyed

By Peter Hennessy

Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, disclosed last night that the single copy made of the evidence presented to his inquiry on the Profumo affair in 1963 had been destroyed.

"It is only in my head, and I am forcing myself to forget it all now," he told the House of Lords during a debate.

The Profumo affair, which shook the Macmillan government, involved the private life of Mr John Profumo, Secretary of State for War, who resigned after admitting that he had lied to the House of Commons. The intimate relationship of many prominent people was involved, as well as national security.

"There were all sorts of records there, most secret records," Lord Denning said. "All sorts of indiscretions revealed." The evidence to his inquiry had been given in confidence. He had assured witnesses it would not be disclosed.

"Afterwards, only one copy was kept. Lots of people would have liked to have read it. A year or two later, I was asked to destroy it. One copy could be destroyed. I heeded the request. I overtook them, or misheard them, or even destroy them, a record office can do nothing about it."

He supported Lord Teviot, the sponsor of the debate and a fellow member of the advisory council, in his call for all nationalised industries and fringe government bodies to be brought within the scope of the public records Acts.

Lord Teviot called for the foundation of a government archives service.

Winding up the debate, Lord Elystan-Jones, Lord Chancellor, said the Profumo episode "must be regarded as an exceptional event".

He rejected requests for an inquiry into public records on the ground that any findings would involve additional public spending.

Parliamentary report, page 5

Sword find brings boy £10,000

By Huon Mallalieu

An Anglo-Saxon chieftain's sword found by Gary Fridd, aged 10, from Richmond, North Yorkshire, while looking for tadpoles near the village of Gilling West, fetched £10,000 at Christie's yesterday.

It had been claimed by the trustees of the Gilling and Skelton estate, on whose property it was found. But Lord Bolton and his fellow trustees waived their claim at a treasure trove inquest last October.

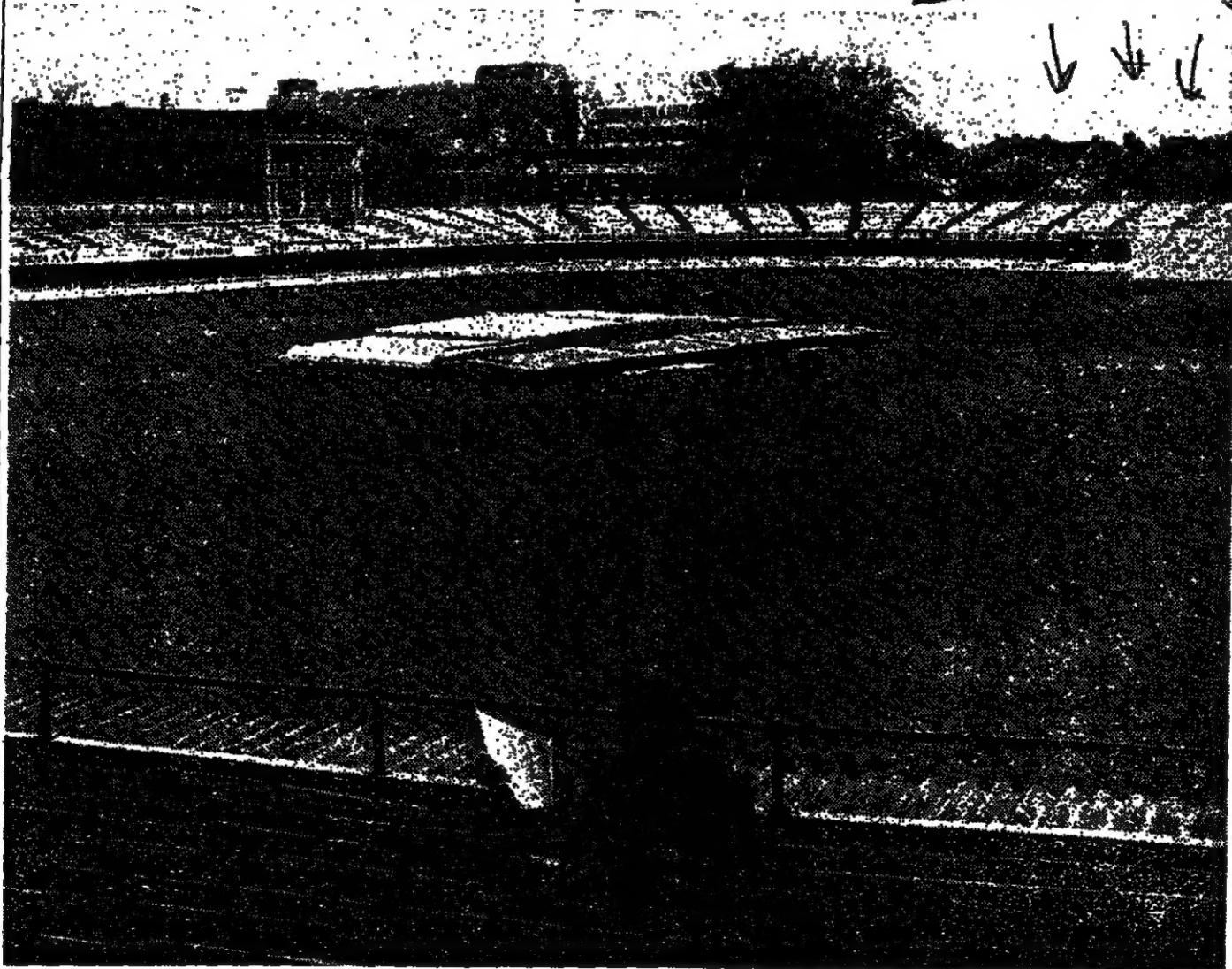
The sword, which is decorated with silver and niello, was bought by the Yorkshire County Museum, York, which has had it on view since its discovery. The museum said it was delighted, despite the high price.

Photograph, page 4

Flaw in satellite launch

Cape Canaveral, Florida, April 20.—The European scientific satellite Geos, launched here today, failed to reach its planned altitude "because of problems in firing the last stage of the launch rocket, an American Thor-Delta, owned by the European Space Agency, reached an altitude of 7,500 miles rather than the planned 22,252 miles.

European space officials hoped to manoeuvre the satellite into a better position with its on-board engine, to save the mission from total failure. The cost of today's mission was about £39m.—Agence France Press.



The cricket season officially started yesterday, but not a ball was bowled. Rain here at Lords and at Oxford stopped the only first class matches. Report, page 14.

Earnings show sharp drop in growth rate

Phase two of the Government's pay policy is expected to keep the rise in wages from employment within the 8.9 per cent range. The Government's official index of earnings, published yesterday, confirms the marked slowdown in the rate of earnings increases since 1976-77. But the success of the pay policy could raise the price for the current round of pay talks. Page 21

Britain's case heard

British lawyers argued at Strasbourg that the Republic of Ireland's attempt to secure condemnation of the security forces in Ulster should not cover a further 233 allegations of ill-treatment between 1971 and 1974. Their arguments before the European Court of Human Rights will be backed up today by Mr Samuel Silkin, the Attorney General. Page 2

Butter subsidy

Britain is hoping to get a butter subsidy of 8p or 8½ out of the EEC in return for a small devaluation of the green pound. The Government's overriding anxiety is to soften the rise in food prices as the transition to EEC levels continues to be phased in. Page 2

Africans rebuff Owen Rhodesia initiative

The Patriotic Front, most militant of the Rhodesian African nationalist groups, has rebuffed proposals for a constitutional conference put forward by Dr David Owen, the Foreign Secretary. But Mr Vorster, the South African Prime Minister, told Parliament that he thought the British initiative had a chance of success and should not be written off. Page 6

Immigrants charge

Civil servants have been accused of imposing tighter restrictions on immigration without ministerial sanction by Mr Alexander Lyon, MP, formerly a Minister of State at the Home Office. He gave evidence to that effect to the Select Committee on Race Relations and Immigration. Page 3

Gas concession ended

Owners of some shops, offices and public houses could face 18 to 25 per cent increases in their gas bills from the beginning of this month because of a decision to abandon a special concessionary commercial heating tariff. Page 21

Groucho Marx case

Dr Morley Kert, who attends Groucho Marx, the 86-year-old comedian, has told a court Mr Marx needs the emotional stimulation given by Miss Erin Fleming, his companion, who has asked to be placed in charge of Mr Marx's estate. Page 6

Compulsory subjects

The Associated Examining Board has made detailed proposals to the Government for a common-core curriculum in the schools. Basic instruction in English and mathematics would be compulsory for every pupil. Page 4

Explosion: The supervisor at a chemical plant was "misled" over a substance that exploded, killing a man

Jerusalem: Israelis celebrate the twenty-ninth anniversary of independence watchful of Arabs and foreign pressure. Page 7

Amsterdam: Dutch newspapers allege that a big art gift to a South African university belonged originally to Jews fleeing in wartime

Austria: A four-page Special Report on its tourism and conference centres. Page 14

Leader page 17

Letters: On election's influence on EEC policy, from Mr David Bagnall and Mr Christopher Chataway; on overwork and health, from Dr Elizabeth S. B. Wilson; and on Far East trade, from Mr R. S. Milward, and others.

Leading articles: Rhodesia; Scottish TUC

Books, page 19
Michael Ranciffe on Gabriel Garcia Marquez's new novel, 'Piers Brandon' on Ruth Dudley Edwards' biography of Patrick Pearse; Peter Timmswood on two new studies of Dylan Thomas; Sheridan Morley on the memoir of Howard Thomas.

Features, pages 16, 20

Michael Shanks says that Europe must take the risk of a 35-hour week in the battle against unemployment; Peter Straford on how the spirit of the Wild West is moving into the space age; Prudence Glynn on fashion.

Obituary, page 18

Mrs St John Hutchinson; Mr Keith Baynes; Brigadier-General L. A. Raynski.

Art, page 12

Paddy Kitchen on the Eastern Arts exhibition at Cambridge; William Mann on Faust (Coven Garden); Irving Wardle on Fat Harold (Shaw Theatre); John Percival on the Départ (Garden); Ned Chalkin on The Bystander (Solo Poly).

Sport, pages 14-15

Cricket: West Indies win fifth Test and series against Pakistan; Washout at start of English season; Racing: Dunsane; Etiole to run in 1,000 Guineas.

Curfew imposed as 18 die in Karachi riots

From Richard Wigg
Rawalpindi, April 20

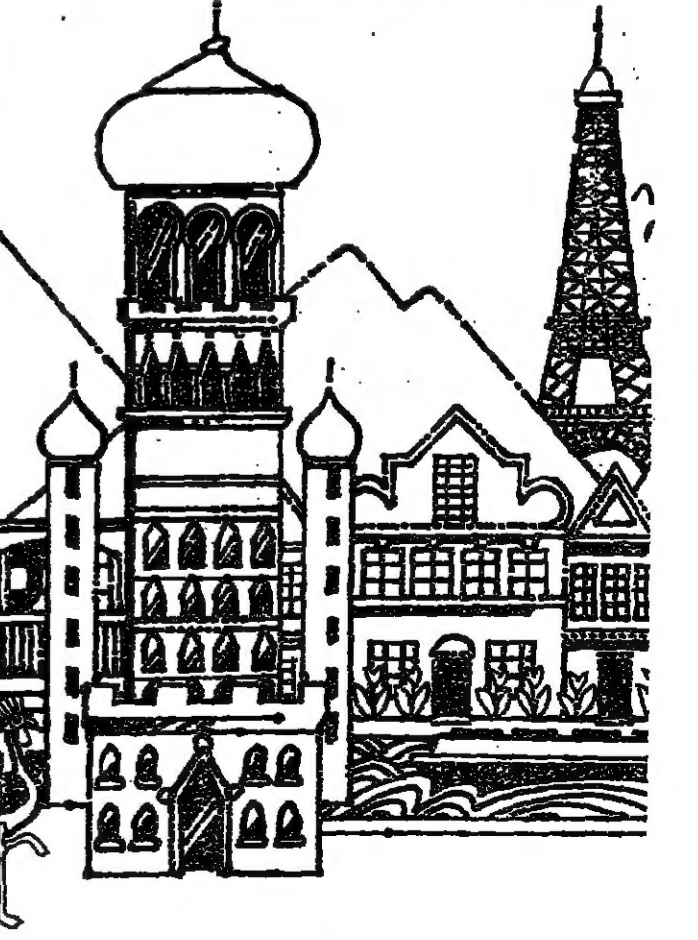
A dusk-to-dawn curfew was imposed in Karachi this evening after at least 18 people had been killed and more than 150 injured in clashes between demonstrators belonging to the Opposition Pakistan National Alliance (PNA) and those of the ruling People's Party. The city was paralysed by a strike which stopped all public transport and closed shops.

Karachi appeared to be the spearhead of attempts by the Opposition to bring the month-old crisis to a head. The Opposition won nine seats there in the recent general election, which it claims was won unfairly by Mr Bhutto's party.

The Pakistan Labour Alliance, a group of trade unions formed under PNA leadership, which called today's strike in Karachi, tonight ordered an indefinite strike. Today's strike was intended to set the scene for Friday's national general strike.

Rawalpindi today had its largest Opposition demonstration to date, which ended with the burning of four shops owned by supporters of the People's Party. Outside Karachi the trains ran but the Opposition campaign that should refuse to pay fares led to crowded trains.

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HOME NEWS

Officials accused of wrongfully tightening immigration controls

By Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

Evidence that civil servants have decided on their own initiative to exercise stricter control over admission of Asian dependants to Britain, without any new instructions from ministers, has been given by Mr Alexander Lyon, Labour MP for York, to members of a cabinet committee.

"The idea that the officials are merely responsive to ministerial directions is nonsense," he says. The figures on which Mr Lyon's statement is based are represented in the accompanying graph.

Today the Select Committee on Race Relations and Immigration will have the opportunity of questioning Mr Lyon when he gives evidence to it. Seven members of the committee visited India, Pakistan and Bangladesh in March and spoke to British officials there.

Mr Lyon's information conflicts with allegations of widespread racketeering in the subcontinent, involving dependants. That is being given as a reason for stricter control.

Mr Lyon, when Minister of State at the Home Office, tried to speed up entry procedures for those excluded to come to Britain, a statutory commitment in the Immigration Act, 1971. The object was to accelerate fulfilment of the commitment. He says that 33,032 now in the queue in the whole of the subcontinent represent some of those who want to come.

When Mr Lyon visited Dacca in 1975 as Minister of State, officials there granted admission to 23 per cent of the wives and children under 18 whom they dealt with. Mr Lyon says the proportion rose

to about half before his dismissal from the Home Office, and has now dropped to about 22 per cent.

He says it is absurd that at Dacca in the last quarter of 1976 only 481 applications were granted out of 2,168 handled. "By no stretch of the imagination can it be alleged that 75 per cent of the cases were bogus."

Another way of looking at the tightening of control is to examine the rate at which wives and children are refused as a percentage of those dealt with. In Islamabad the refusal rate dropped from about 17 per cent at the time of my visit to about 5 per cent at the time of my dismissal. It has now jumped to 23 per cent. No new instructions have been given to the posts since I left.

Immigration control is also being tightened by means of amendments to immigration rules which were laid before Parliament on March 22 and are now beginning to take effect. The amendments, designed to prevent men from being accepted for settlement through marriages of convenience, were made after allegations of abuse, and coincide with a hardening of political attitudes.

The Stetchford-by-election campaign showed that immigration remains an issue that can be exploited. Twenty leading immigrant organizations are jointly asking the Home Secretary to meet a deputation about the change in the rules and are supporting motions tabled by Mr Lyon in the Commons and Lord Aylbury in the Lords to annul the amendments.

They are also seeking support from candidates in the local elections.

Lower living standards causes drain of talent

Many talented and experienced people leave Britain because of the quality of life here, a report by Overseas Recruitment Services Ltd, a subsidiary of Alfred Marks Bureau, the employment agency, states.

It says that higher salaries abroad, the British tax system and falling living standards are the three main reasons why people leave.

A survey was made of 991 applicants for overseas jobs in engineering, secretarial work, the medical and nursing professions, the hotel trade and catering. Of these in the 31 to 50 age group, identified as the best qualified and most experienced 68 cited higher salaries as their reason for leaving; 59 gave Britain's tax system; and 51 blamed cuts in living standards.

The report says: "These are the people in the prime of life who have a lot to offer and whom the country can ill afford to do without. The three main reasons why these people are going combine to form a most serious indictment of life in the United Kingdom for the talented and experienced."

The United Kingdom taxation system makes it impossible for merit to be adequately rewarded, the report says.

Disillusionment with the alleged lack of opportunity to develop a career in Britain is particularly strong at middle management level or the equivalent in the professions.

Money was not the only reason given for seeking work abroad. Four out of five in the under-21 age group gave wanderlust as their motive. That, the report says, is more prevalent among women than men. Only 35 men owned to it, against 68 women.

The most favoured destinations of those leaving are Europe, the United States and the Middle East, in that order.

Belief that the grass is greener on the other side of the hill is entirely natural, and never more so when the grass on your side is obviously muddy and trampled, the report says.



Mr Callaghan and News Reporter of the Year, Geraldine Norman, of "The Times".

Callaghan concern over press cynics

The Prime Minister said yesterday that he was worried about the cynicism that seemed to have corroded British life and the press.

Mr Callaghan, who was speaking at a lunch where he presented the 1976 British Press Awards, said: "This degree of cynicism is something that is pulling us down unnecessarily at a time when we ought to be moving up." It was something

"that is not totally justified at all".

But he added that newspapers were a mirror of society. He would do nothing to "bring pressure to bear on the press of this country".

Mr Callaghan disclosed that he had been offered a job as a BBC newscaster 25 years ago. "I might have been another Robin Day, but I escaped from that fate," he said.

Mr David Chipp, editor-in-chief of the Press Association, who announced the awards, praised the quality of the work submitted by young journalists. "This is good for our future, highlights the talent that is becoming available, and above all is evidence of the intelligent direction which editors, news

editors and chief subs are giving to their young staff", he said. The main award winners were: Peter Nissen (The Guardian) international reporter of the year; Chris Dunkley (Financial Times) critic; Richard Woolveridge (South London Press) young journalist; Geraldine Norman (The Times) news reporter; David Cairns (Daily Express) press photographer; Andrew Alexander (Daily Mail) specialist writer; Christopher Brasher (The Observer) sports writer; Ian Wooldridge (Daily Mail) columnist.

Geoffrey Parkhouse (Glasgow Herald) and Alan Whitt (Belfast Newsletter) were joint provincial journalists of the year, and Douglas Thain, Alan Humdall and Graham Bird (The Star, Sheffield) were campaigning journalists of the year. A special award was given to Stephen Fay and Hugo Young of The Sunday Times.

Mr Laker is hopeful of Skytrain for July

By Arthur Reed

Air Correspondent

Skytrain "walk-on" flights between London and New York at a single fare of £59 could begin by July now that the United States Department of Transportation has approved the project, Mr F. A. Laker, chairman of Laker Airways, said in London yesterday.

He described the department's approval, which was granted on Tuesday, as "a major hurdle". He was confident that the two remaining steps had already been cleared by the American State Department and the White House.

"We can start the service 30 days after we get the permission to fly," he said, adding that the permission will be issued before June 22, we are talking about July. A single fare of £59, Skytrain would produce a return on investment of 11.45 per cent.

Mr Laker said he was delighted to have won the latest round in his six-year battle with the British and United States governments to mount no-reservation, walk-on flights to New York.

But although the Department of Transportation appears to have cleared the way for Skytrain, Mr Laker's service could yet become bogged down in negotiations between the two governments on a new Bermuda air services agreement for the north Atlantic routes, which Britain wants worked out by June.

Britain has indicated that it wants Skytrain to be considered separately, but there is no guarantee that the Americans will accept that. If Laker flies alongside British Airways, the American case, that their two main airlines should continue to operate, will be stronger.

The British Government embraced the cause of Skytrain earlier this year after the Court of Appeal ruled that Mr Shore, the former Secretary of State for Trade, had exceeded his authority in stopping the service.

In brief

Clothing of dead girl changed

Janet Shepherd, 5½, Australian heiress, died as a result of compression of the neck, probably from an arm lock, Detective Chief Superintendent Ronald Harvey, head of Hertfordshire CID, said yesterday.

The woman, aged 24, whose body was found in a shallow grave at Nonsuch Common, Weymouth, Dorset, on Monday, had also undergone a partial clothing change at the hands of her murderer.

Dracula and Whitby

Members of the Dracula Society will next week visit Whitby, North Yorkshire, which features in Bram Stoker's classic of horror, Mr Donald Waterman, the resort's director of tourism, said yesterday: "Look what Shakespeare has done for Stratford. We want to see what Dracula can do for Whitby."

Miner dies in accident

Mr Jan Dolez, aged 56, a coalface worker, died yesterday in a shuffling accident at Wolsanton colliery, Staffordshire. Another worker was taken to hospital.

Eleven years for rape

Percy Robinson, aged 45, a labourer, of Rosemary Gardens, Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, was jailed at Newcastle upon Tyne Crown Court yesterday for 11 years for raping a girl of 15 last summer.

Jubilee special

British Rail will attempt a jubilee year record-breaking run by its new high-speed train from Bristol to London on May 7 at an average speed of 100 mph.

Coppins for sale

Coppins, near Iwer, Buckinghamshire, once the home of the Duke of Kent, is for sale again, at £500,000 with about 13 acres of gardens.

Jubilee letter form

A pictorial air mail letter form, illustrated with a photograph of the Queen, will be issued on May 11 as a silver jubilee memento.

Rail ticket forgers tackled

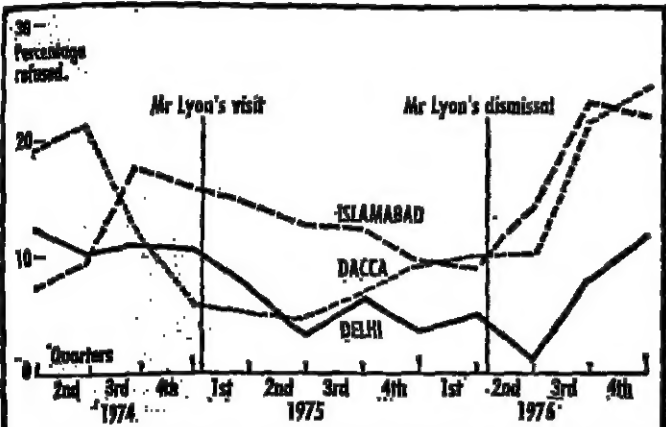
By a Staff Reporter

Colour-coded season tickets are being introduced by British Rail in an attempt to cut the estimated £2m lost each year through fraudulent use.

British Rail remained deliberately vague yesterday about the new coding but explained that tickets in different colours for successive periods will make it more difficult for passengers to trick inspectors.

The new colours will be introduced without warning. In Scotland some annual season ticket holders have been issued with the new tickets.

The colour-coding will prevent passengers from attempting to alter the date on expired season tickets. British Rail said: "Because the customer will not know the colour and coding of his next ticket, it will be difficult for him to forge."



Rejected applications for settlement in Britain, made by immigrants' wives and children in Dacca, Delhi and Islamabad, expressed as a proportion of those dealt with, as shown in a Rumymede Trust bulletin.

Genetic effect of X-rays to be studied

Genetic hazards associated with the use of X-rays for diagnostic purposes are to be investigated by the National Radiological Protection Board. The study will include a survey at more than 100 National Health Service hospitals of the number and age of patients and the type of examination performed, starting in June.

The purpose is to review the importance of medical X-rays in contributing to the so-called genetically significant dose of radiation received by the population. An EEC directive requires that a record be kept of all sources of radiation that could have genetic effects and that radiation from medical examination and treatment be kept to a minimum.

Earlier research has detected an increase in genetically-related diseases in children, up to 10 years old, of mothers who were X-rayed in pregnancy.

A report from the United Nations Scientific Committee on the effects of atomic radiation indicates that the use of diagnostic X-rays has been increasing at about 3 per cent a year during the past few years. Since 1958 the use of radioactive pharmaceuticals has increased four times.

Two Army doctors in London are having a course of injections against rabies after treating a Gorkha soldier who died of the disease in Hongkong's British military hospital.

The doctors were not in isolation and were carrying on normally, the Army and the Department of Health said yesterday.

Army doctors in rabies check

Two Army doctors in London are having a course of injections against rabies after treating a Gorkha soldier who died of the disease in Hongkong's British military hospital.

The doctors were not in isolation and were carrying on normally, the Army and the Department of Health said yesterday.



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Commitment to direct elections: Dr Owen sees little chance of federal states of Europe

House of Commons

Dr David Owen, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Plymouth, Devon, Lab), opening the debate on direct elections to the European Parliament, said that the Government would not accept the objective of a federal system of states of Europe.

The Government were not announcing decisions at this stage. They would want to listen to and note all the arguments made in the debate. In the light of those the Government would immediately consider the views of the House on the White Paper on direct elections.

The Cabinet's conclusions on an electoral system and the related issues would be brought forward by the Government as proposals to the House.

The principle of a directly-elected Parliament was incorporated in the Treaty 20 years ago as a necessary element of the Community. The goal of direct elections was clear. Parliament in an electoral system was one of the goals which the Community assumed when they began their work.

Here as in other member countries (he said) participation is only possible on a basis agreed by our Parliament. The Government are committed, honouring their treaty obligations, to introduce the Bill for direct elections to the European Parliament in May or June next year.

The Government's political commitment was to use their best endeavours to ensure that the Bill was introduced in the House of Commons in the shortest possible time. The Government were committed to the principle of direct elections to the European Parliament, but they were not committed to the principle of a federal system of states of Europe.

Mr John Davies, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Kilnsey, Devon, Con), said that he should not be debating the issue of principle today. The Prime Minister had said that the principle was beyond recall.

Their purpose must be to deal more with the specifics of the White Paper. These concerned the electoral system, the timing of the elections, the question of the dual mandate, but there was no means of reaching a decision on the principle of direct elections.

He hoped there would be a change, perhaps between the House of Commons and the House of Lords, in the way of dealing with the Bill for direct elections. The Government were committed to the principle of direct elections, but they were not committed to the principle of a federal system of states of Europe.

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It was clear that the Government were committed to the principle of direct elections, but they were not committed to the principle of a federal system of states of Europe. The Government were committed to the principle of direct elections, but they were not committed to the principle of a federal system of states of Europe.

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realize there are many different views on this issue. If you were to ask me what I think of the whole question of the European Parliament it is worth discussing. It was never really fully discussed at the time of the referendum.

He was well aware of the fact that in 10 years' time the House of Commons would be a different House. The House of Commons would be a different House. The House of Commons would be a different House.

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Profumo inquiry records only a memory of moral obligation on Community to help in narrowing gap between the rich and the poor of the world

European Parliament

Strasbourg
The European Community has always had a depressing tendency to denigrate its own achievements, often because it fixed sights on unrealistic targets and a sense of let down when those targets were not met.

Dr David Owen, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and current President of the Council of Ministers, coupled this statement with a warning that the Community must continue to offer the people of the poorer countries the prospect of lives no longer dominated by want and inefficiency.

Dr Owen was reporting to the Parliament on the European Council meeting in Rome in March, in his first speech here since becoming Foreign Secretary.

He said that the Council had agreed to draw up an action programme, to cover specific proposals for increasing industrial investment, increasing opportunities for the poorer countries, and for the development of the poorer countries.

It is vitally important (he said) that we are in a position to report progress for alleviating unemployment. In particular, young school leavers will expect action this summer, not just words. (Applause.)

Restoring balanced growth to the world economy would be a major task of the Dornier Street summit next month.

It was right for the Community to deal with the various economic matters affecting the livelihood of many millions of people in the world. They should not be ashamed to admit that that was their first priority but not the only priority.

We are also citizens of the world (he said). We have responsibilities to the unemployed and the underemployed in the world. The European Community has, thankfully, never seen itself as an exclusive, inward-looking organization.

That was why the United Kingdom presidency had felt it right to take the initiative in the Council of Ministers and at Rome, Community positions on a common fund and the issue of the development of the poorer countries.

Since Rome the first round of the Community's international relations has been without a hitch. The Community has been able to achieve a number of important agreements.

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inevitably arise between member states. Our objective must always be a common Community position. The basis for this is that we should be able to understand principles and in Rome we demonstrated a fair measure of fundamental agreement.

We agree that an international economy in which one third of the world's population has an annual income of less than £100 and in which the gap between the poorest and richest nations is growing, is morally unacceptable.

We have to recognize that in our post-colonial world the developing countries must have their rightful influence in the international economic system.

That had been made clear to him in Africa by every independent leader who had spoken to him. We agree (he said) that the Community, which is, inevitably, concerned primarily for the less developed countries, has an inescapable moral obligation to show a similar concern for the disadvantaged of the world.

Speaking as a socialist politician, rather than as President of the Council of Ministers, we cannot use the language of social democracy at home and that of Adam Smith or laissez faire in the international economy.

All of us, in the international economy, agreed that the Community had a duty to deploy its political and economic influence to promote the dialogue with the developing world.

That was in keeping, not only with the long-standing ties of friendship and cooperation which individual member states enjoyed outside Europe but with the rapidly developing role of the Community as a force in international affairs.

That was why the United Kingdom presidency had felt it right to take the initiative in the Council of Ministers and at Rome, Community positions on a common fund and the issue of the development of the poorer countries.

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Free vote for Tories on electoral method

Mr John Davies, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (Kilnsey, Devon, Con), said that he should not be debating the issue of principle today. The Prime Minister had said that the principle was beyond recall.

Their purpose must be to deal more with the specifics of the White Paper. These concerned the electoral system, the timing of the elections, the question of the dual mandate, but there was no means of reaching a decision on the principle of direct elections.

He hoped there would be a change, perhaps between the House of Commons and the House of Lords, in the way of dealing with the Bill for direct elections. The Government were committed to the principle of direct elections, but they were not committed to the principle of a federal system of states of Europe.

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The Opposition would do so. (Some cries of "Oh!") He judged his view on a single member system from the relation to the situation he found at the end of the debate.

He would not be happy with an arbitrary Westminster Government of the House based simply on the discussions in the debate. There must be a vote in the House on the agreement with any electoral system.

It seemed desirable there should be a single member system applied throughout the United Kingdom. A directly-elected European Parliament would bring a searching wind of true representation to the House of Commons.

There was no danger of the House of Commons becoming a kind of power hungry monster. Its ambitions would be thwarted by the constitutional rules of the Commons itself.

Mr Douglas Jay (Wandsworth, Con) said that the Government were committed to the principle of direct elections, but they were not committed to the principle of a federal system of states of Europe.

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Lord Trefort, indicating a debate on public records, said that the Public Record Office dated back to 1838, when the first modern public records Act was passed. The last major study of the archives was by the Public Record Office in 1954. It resulted in the 1958 Public Records Act.

The results had shown on the whole that the Public Record Office had been successful. For the first time a specific responsibility was placed on the departments for the long-term preservation of records. It was the first time that a clearly defined coordinating role had been established.

It was later reduced to 30 years. Since 1954 there had been great changes in the records, the users, and the way they used them. Who in 1954 could have foreseen the great changes which the computer would bring?

The needs of historians and scholars were different then. Since 1954 there had been a shift in interest from old fashioned political and diplomatic history. Now there was an emphasis on economic, social and local history. On science. He was not convinced that the Public Record Office was doing enough to let the professional historian know about those things, have a fair say in the way the records were handled.

A Government archive service could be set up on the same lines as the Government's economic service. People interested in records would be able to go to a central office and be given a list of records. It would not be joined by a staff who felt they would be pushed into a backwater. Historians would be able to go to a central office and be given a list of records. It would not be joined by a staff who felt they would be pushed into a backwater.

The National Enterprise Board involved a critical element in the economic strategy. It had a decisive power in the future of British Leyland and other concerns. Future economic historians would be able to go to a central office and be given a list of records. It would not be joined by a staff who felt they would be pushed into a backwater.

Some means or advice ought to be given whereby records could be given a new lease of life. The problem was being considered by the Advisory Council on the Archives. It was a question of the Community's international relations. The Community has been able to achieve a number of important agreements.

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stop spending our time predicting crises every time there is disagreement. Disagreements in these discussions are inevitable, but there exists a consensus that any scheme eventually decided must assist international commodity arrangements to stabilize commodity prices around the longer-term market trends. A basis exists for the successful conclusion of a reconvened conference.

The Community had a record of solid achievements. He admitted that the Community was not perfect, but he believed that the Community was doing its best to achieve its objectives.

It is a measure of the size of the problem that it is so much remains to be done. If I can speak bluntly, the Community has always had a depressing tendency to denigrate its own achievements.

We must continue to offer the people of the poorer countries the prospect of lives no longer dominated by want and inefficiency. In doing so, we must ensure that we improve rather than worsen the situation of the world's poor.

Some ideas discussed were unworkable and could not be supported by politicians prepared to show vision and to give a lead to their domestic public opinion.

It was not feasible to meet immediately the demands of the developing world, but that practical political reality should not diminish the force of the commitment to deal cooperatively with the serious and urgent problems of developing countries.

Other countries such as the Soviet Union and East European countries had responsibilities and in many cases contributed little to the development of the world. They looked to the oil producers, with their vast resources, to contribute to the development of the world.

He did not pretend that their response to the challenge presented by the widening and intolerable gap between rich and poor countries was perfect. But at least the evidence was there for all to see of the Community's determination to deal with the world's problems.

That was why the United Kingdom presidency had felt it right to take the initiative in the Council of Ministers and at Rome, Community positions on a common fund and the issue of the development of the poorer countries.

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WEST EUROPE

Newspapers say Dutch collector's £5m art gift to Pretoria University belonged to Jews

From Sue Masterman
The Hague, April 20

Allegation that a £5m art collection donated to Pretoria University was amassed from Jews fleeing the Nazi persecution in Holland appeared simultaneously in two leading Dutch and South African newspapers today.

The collection was donated last year by Mr Jacob Abraham van Tilburg, aged 88, who emigrated to South Africa in 1951. He had been arrested after the Second World War on charges of collaboration, but the case was later dropped.

Today's reports in the Rotterdam-based *Algemeen Dagblad* and the Johannesburg *Star* after a joint investigation by the two newspapers.

The *Dagblad* quoted former members of the Dutch resistance as saying that Mr van Tilburg built his collection on "blood money"—funds belonging to Jewish families who fled the Nazi terror in occupied Holland. Most of them failed to return.

The newspaper reports that Mr van Tilburg was a member of the Dordrecht town council for the Protestant Christian Union during the occu-

pation. He was arrested immediately after the war and tried by a special tribunal. Charges of collaboration were finally dropped in May, 1948, because, the paper says, of insufficient evidence.

The newspaper claims that Mr van Tilburg promised to help Jews whose goods he held in safekeeping to escape to unoccupied France or Switzerland. Of the 20 to 30 families involved, only one individual was known to have reached safety. The fee for a "ticket to freedom" was between £200 and £300.

The paper also records that immediately after the war Mr van Tilburg was fined £70,000 for black marketeering, but had the fine reduced to £15,000.

Mr van Tilburg, who lives near Pretoria in a 21-roomed house converted to house his collection, is reported in both newspapers as saying the accusations are "filthy lies".

Dr Lou de Jong, director of Holland's State Institute for War Documentation, said today that he could not comment since he had not yet seen the full documentation. The dossier of the collection was handled by the special tribunal, the court for rehabilitation and various other courts were in the Min-

istry of Justice archives and would under normal circumstances remain secret for 50 years.

"However, if the Government is asked by Parliament to explain this matter, we would have access to the dossiers", Dr de Jong said.

Various political parties are considering tabling questions to the Government on the affair. The president of the tribunal before which Mr van Tilburg appeared, Mr Jaap Burger, is now one of the Queen's Advisers. With elections pending, the affair has far-reaching political implications.

Our Johannesburg Correspondent writes: Professor E. M. Hamman, the Rector of Pretoria University, said today that the university would return the art works to their rightful owners if it was proved they had been improperly obtained. The university's council would investigate the allegations.

It is understood that the university was informed of rumours about the collection at the time it was donated by Mr van Tilburg. A member of the university council, Dr C. L. du Bruyn, had approached the Dutch Embassy in Pretoria, but they were unable to provide any official guidance.

Dr Owen backs EEC aid to Third World

From John Winder
Strasbourg, April 20

The EEC record of aid to developing countries was stoutly defended by Dr David Owen, the Foreign Secretary, in his maiden speech as President of the Council of Foreign Ministers to the European Parliament here today.

His speech, concentrating almost entirely on the needs of the Third World and the Community's role in providing that aid, was well received, but that was the only bright spot for Britain during the day. Dr Owen himself was criticized because he had to leave only 30 minutes after making his speech to open the Westminster debate on direct European elections.

Later, the British Government was condemned for its attitude in the farm price negotiations by Mr John Corrie, a Conservative MP, who wondered whether Mr John Silkin, the Agriculture Minister, was out to destroy not only the common agricultural policy but the whole concept of the Community.

This part of the debate was supported by the British Labour MPs, who walked out with the rest of the Socialist group in protest against the failure to call Lord Ardwick to speak in the debate on Dr Owen's statement.

Dr Owen told the Parliament that economic matters affecting the livelihood of the Community's own citizens was the EEC's first priority, but not its only priority.

"We are also citizens of the world," he said. "We have responsibilities to the underdeveloped world. The European Community has never seen itself, thankfully, as an exclusive inward-looking organization, and the European Council devoted considerable time at Rome to the North-South dialogue."

He said there was justice in the developing world's demand for a more equitable economic order and it was vital to all the nations to achieve it. The Community, although inevitably concerned primarily with the less fortunate among its own people, had a moral obligation to show a similar concern for the disadvantaged of the world.

"We cannot abandon the world's poor to the mercies of the Malthusian tragedy of war, famine and disease," Dr Owen said and was applauded by the MPs.

Dr Owen added: "If I can speak bluntly, the Community has always had a depressing tendency to denigrate its own achievements, often because it fixes its sights on wholly unrealistic targets and then feels a sense of let-down when they are not met."

"We must continue to offer the people of the poorer countries the prospect of lives no longer dominated by want and insufficiency."

Parliamentary report, page 5

OVERSEAS



China's campaign against the "gang of four", said to have been led by Chiang Ching, Chairman Mao's widow, has been carried into street theatres. In this production in a Shanghai street, the masked player portraying Chiang Ching wears spectacles and a skirt.

Patriotic Front rebuffs Owen plan for Rhodesia conference

By David Spanier
Diplomatic Correspondent

Dr David Owen, the Foreign Secretary, appears to have been sharply rebuffed by the Patriotic Front, the most militant of the Rhodesian African nationalist groups, on his proposals for a constitutional conference.

Mr Joshua Nkomo and Mr Robert Mugabe, the joint leaders of the Patriotic Front, said in Lusaka that they rejected any full participation in constitutional talks by the two other African leaders, Bishop Abel Muzorewa (who will be in London next week) and the Rev (Mabonisi) Sibhelo. They also insisted that Mr Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, could attend only as a member of the delegation of Britain, as the colonial power.

However, it has been noted in London that the five "frontline" presidents issued no communiqué after their meeting in Luanda this week and have not, it appears, endorsed the Patriotic Front's claim to be the sole representative of African opinion. It may well be, therefore, that Mr Nkomo and Mr Mugabe will not prove quite so uncompromising as the Patriotic Front.

Certainly Dr Owen's hope is that he can persuade all the participants at the previous conference to join in new constitutional talks. The consultations which Britain is under-

taking in the next few weeks are designed to find out what measure of agreement exists in practice.

Nicholas Ashford writes from Johannesburg: Dr Owen received a somewhat cautious gesture of support today from Mr Vorster, the South African Prime Minister, who told Parliament that he thought the new British initiative on Rhodesia "had a chance of success and should not be written off".

But he added that its success would depend on the reasonableness and fairness of the various parties involved. If the initiative failed he believed it would not be the fault of the whites in Rhodesia.

On South-West Africa (Namibia), the Prime Minister said he was prepared to have further talks with the Western powers, but there were "certain limits beyond which South Africa was not prepared to go, no matter what demands are made".

According to press reports, so far unconfirmed, Mr Vorster is expected to have another meeting with the ambassadors of Britain, the United States,

France, West Germany and Canada within the next two weeks to discuss an internationally acceptable solution to the Namibian constitutional problem.

Ambassadors representing the five Security Council members met Mr Vorster shortly before Easter. The outcome of that meeting will be discussed in Cape Town on Friday when the Prime Minister has talks with members of the constitutional committee of the Turnhalle conference on Namibia.

In his speech in Parliament, Mr Vorster argued at considerable length that discrimination against the blacks in South Africa was being eliminated. Making his second speech on discrimination in two days, he listed a series of areas, including schools, sport, constitutional, development, travel and housing facilities where the government was already working. He gave an assurance that attention would continue to be given to those areas where discrimination still existed.

"My policy and that of my party is not based on the belief that one race is superior to another," he stated. "My policy takes account of the differences between race and race and group and group. No progress could be made unless it was accepted that different people had varying outlooks and life styles."

15 factories affected by Seveso poison

From Our Correspondent
Rome, April 20

The Lombardy regional government today decided to spread asphalt over the grounds of 15 factories at Cesano Maderno, near Milan, after Swiss scientists reported high levels of the dioxin poison which escaped from a plant at Seveso last summer. The grounds will be sealed off and the factories cleaned.

The regional government, in an urgent meeting to discuss the Swiss findings, decided against closing down the factories, where 118 workers are employed.

Cesano Maderno is near Seveso, which was evacuated after a cloud of dioxin escaped from the Swiss-owned Icmesa chemicals plant there, but it has not been officially listed as seriously contaminated.

The Lombardy's councillor responsible for health, Signor Vittorio Rivolta, told journalists after the meetings that up to 200 micrograms of dioxin per square metre had been found round the factories. The maximum level permitted for safety is 0.001 microgrammes.

It was distributed very unevenly and was thought to have been brought in by vehicles, he said.

Bonn's role in curbing terrorism defended

From Dan van der Vat
Bonn, April 20

Herr Schmidt, the West German Chancellor, gave a warning today against overreaction to terrorism. Speaking in an emergency Bundestag debate on the assassination of Herr Siegfried Buback, the Attorney General, he said the people had a right to protection and expected terrorists to be punished, but not at the cost of infringement of basic freedoms.

Terrorism was an international problem and no country, not even one ruled by military dictators, had come up with an answer overnight.

West Germany had shown that it was not helpless against terrorism, he added. It had introduced many new measures at home and abroad to improve international co-operation. The Government was always ready to reexamine the legal defences against terrorism, but would not be panicked.

Herr Schmidt presented the House with a balance sheet of terrorism in West Germany over the past decade.

A total of 123 people had been imprisoned for terrorism or abetting it, and another 60 were awaiting confirmation of sentence. Charges had been laid against another 35, while 144 names were under official investigation and warrants had been issued for the arrest of 35 other suspects.

At the same time, 17 people

had been killed by terrorists, 38 injured and 13 held hostage. Ten terrorists were killed in battles with the police.

The Chancellor said the right way to deal with political violence was to isolate its perpetrators morally and convince sympathizers that all they were doing was supporting murderers. The risk of suppressing legitimate dissent must be avoided. There was no point in banning political groups which favoured violence because the voters could be relied upon, as they had shown, to prove their rejection of these at every election.

Harsher sentences would not deter those determined on murder, he added and that introducing special procedures for dealing with terrorist crimes would create a dangerous precedent.

Dr Helmut Kohl, the Opposition leader, accused the Government of trying to make light of terrorism and demanded tougher legal measures. The Opposition would table proposals because confidence in the constitution of the state would be endangered unless everything possible were done, he said. The people were worried the state might not be able to come with terrorism.

"Police still have no trace of the three men wanted in connection with the murder on Monday Thursday of Herr Buback, his driver and a passenger in his car."

Spanish general dismissed in Suárez clampdown

Madrid, April 20.—A Spanish Army general was dismissed today as Dr Adolfo Suárez, the Prime Minister, took steps to curb military dissent over the lifting of a 38-year-old ban on the Communist Party.

Brigadier-General Manuel Alvarez Zaba was dismissed as head of the Army Ministry's secretariat, the official *Gaceta* announced.

Informed sources said that General Alvarez had sent out a document to Army commanders accusing the Government of failing to advise the Army before its decision to legalize the Communist Party.

Lieutenant-General Felix Alvarez Arenas, the Army Minister, later issued a circular saying he had not authorized the document. He said it contained "certain errors" which threaten to cause confusion within our com-

Strikebound Danish papers printed by duplicators

From Our Correspondent
Copenhagen, April 20

Danish newspaper publishers plan to use duplicators and large office printers to produce emergency newspapers despite the unofficial nationwide strike by printing employees, which is now in its third week. Two emergency newspapers of this type appeared today. Sources indicate that, by the beginning of next week, about a dozen will be appearing regularly.

A labour court yesterday ordered the striking printers to return to work in a provisional ruling issued immediately after a hearing. Some have agreed to do so; but leaders of the printing unions say that they will not send their members back to work until a settlement is negotiated in the conflict which has prevented the main national daily, *Bertelske Tidende*, from appearing since January 30.

A full court ruling will come on May 4 when the unions will also be ordered to pay fines. Meanwhile, the unions have started an intensified campaign to win support from other trade unions. They have also sought economic assistance from union organizations in the other Scandinavian countries.

Hans Larsen, editor of the provincial *Sjæve Folkeblad*, today published a full newspaper with the help of unorganized staff. It was the first time the newspaper has appeared since the conflict began April 1.

The dispute is costing us about £2,500 daily," Mr Larsen said. "The public impression that the loss is paid for by the Association of Newspaper Owners is not correct. The newspapers are bearing the loss themselves, apart from a token sum from the association."

The total cost to newspaper owners has already exceeded £10m, he estimated, and many of the 40 newspapers involved will not be able to survive. "It has been widely claimed that six newspapers are likely to close, but I am sure that the number will be greater than that," he said.

Several opposition politicians have appealed to Minister Joergensen, the Prime Minister, to intervene in the conflict. He has refused. He has also warned newspapers in financial difficulty that they could not expect assistance from the Government.

British women seem sure of EEC bridge title

From a Bridge Correspondent
Oxford

After five of seven rounds in the team event of the common Market Bridge Championships, the British women seem certain to win their series. Yesterday they won 20-0 against France and continued with a 13-7 win against their closest challengers, The Netherlands.

Italy moved into second place, more than a full match behind Great Britain, whom they meet in this evening's final round.

The British open team, four of whom will represent Great Britain in the European Championships, were outplayed 19-1 by the French. They recovered in the evening when they won 19-1 against The Netherlands, but slipped into third place. To improve on that placing, they will need to beat the leaders, Italy, in the final match.

The British juniors continue to disappoint, largely by virtue of their incoincistency. Yesterday they were at their best when beating France 19-1, but lost 15-5 to The Netherlands after leading at half-time.

The British mixed team beat France and drew with The Netherlands. Championship tables after five rounds are:

OPEN SERIES: 1. Italy, 85; 2. France, 78; 3. Great Britain, 70; 4. Netherlands, 58; 5. Germany, 55; 6. Belgium, 52; 7. Denmark, 48; 8. Spain, 45; 9. Greece, 42; 10. Portugal, 40; 11. Austria, 38; 12. Sweden, 35; 13. Switzerland, 32; 14. Norway, 30; 15. Finland, 28; 16. Czechoslovakia, 25; 17. Poland, 22; 18. Yugoslavia, 20; 19. Hungary, 18; 20. Luxembourg, 15; 21. Ireland, 12; 22. Greece, 10; 23. Turkey, 8; 24. Portugal, 6; 25. Spain, 4; 26. France, 2; 27. Germany, 1; 28. Belgium, 0; 29. Denmark, 0; 30. Sweden, 0; 31. Switzerland, 0; 32. Norway, 0; 33. Finland, 0; 34. Czechoslovakia, 0; 35. Poland, 0; 36. Yugoslavia, 0; 37. Hungary, 0; 38. Luxembourg, 0; 39. Ireland, 0; 40. Greece, 0; 41. Turkey, 0; 42. Portugal, 0; 43. Spain, 0; 44. France, 0; 45. Germany, 0; 46. Belgium, 0; 47. Denmark, 0; 48. Sweden, 0; 49. Switzerland, 0; 50. Norway, 0; 51. Finland, 0; 52. Czechoslovakia, 0; 53. Poland, 0; 54. Yugoslavia, 0; 55. Hungary, 0; 56. Luxembourg, 0; 57. Ireland, 0; 58. Greece, 0; 59. 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OVERSEAS

Celebrating Israelis watchful of Arabs and foreign pressure

From Eric Marsden
Jerusalem, April 20

With security increased in cities and on main roads, Israel this evening began celebrating Independence Day, after finishing 24 hours of mourning for the fallen in its wars and campaigns since 1948. Trouble is expected in the period between Independence Day and the tenth anniversary of the 1967 Six-Day war in June, especially as the theme of this year's celebration is "the reunification of Jerusalem" a subject that evokes conflicting emotions in a city of some 230,000 Jews and 100,000 Arabs. Additional troops were on patrol in the walled Old City today.

The regional police commander has denied that preventive arrests have been carried out to ensure calm, as on previous Independence Days. He indicated that police would rely on reinforced patrols and spot checks on residential areas.

Although tonight's celebrations were a return to gaiety, with street dancing and fireworks in Jewish areas, most Israelis are aware that they usher in a year of more than usual importance for the nation's future, a time of political change and probably of international pressure on the new government after next month's elections to make concessions to the Arabs.

This awareness was reflected in Independence Day messages and a Memorial Day speech by Mr. Rabin, who is making his last public appearances as Prime Minister before handing over day-by-day duties on Friday to Mr. Shimon Peres, gave the address at the memorial service on Mount Herzl.

He said that "with hours of happiness filling the land, from Jordan to sea, from Mount Hermon to Ophira (Sharm el Sheikh)", Israelis should remember that independence was not given on a silver platter but was bought by heavy sacrifice by its young men.

His foes and the world should know that Israel had no other recourse but to continue to build and defend its national home.

Mr. Peres, speaking last night at a Tel Aviv reception, put the emphasis on the need for increased Jewish immigration and settlement. He said: "Extreme watchfulness, political scepticism and military" were needed.

The demarcation to press on with Jewish settlements in the occupied areas was given concrete expression yesterday with confirmation that a group of religious soldiers had moved

into an abandoned police station near the Arab village of Masha to set up the first authorized Jewish settlement in Samaria, the northern part of the West Bank. The soldiers are supporters of the extreme nationalist Gush Emunim movement, which has again succeeded in bending the Government to its will.

When members of Gush Emunim tried to start a settlement near Nablus early in 1976, they were persuaded to move temporarily to an army camp at Kaddum. This settlement remains officially illegal but attempts to remove it are unlikely now that the principle of no Jewish settlement in Samaria has been abandoned.

Gush Emunim is expected to widen its activities and to attempt to implement its plans for settlements throughout the West Bank.

This would present a dilemma for Mr. Peres, who supported the Kaddum settlement in defiance of Mr. Rabin but who as the country's temporary leader must also have in mind the continuing Arab unrest over the spread of Jewish settlements and the land expropriation that often accompanies their creation.

The ministerial settlement committee yesterday approved an additional budget of £1m for building in Jewish settlements in occupied areas and gave final authorization to the Gush Emunim plans for Masha. It is understood that the intention is to transform Masha into a civilian urban settlement.

The road to the old Jordan boundary with Israel and if President Carter's ideas on security safeguards for Israel ever materialize, it would fall within demilitarized zones.

In Israel proper, the outlook is sombre as the country enters its thirtieth year. There is no sign of an end to a three-week marine officers' strike which has brought the main port of Haifa and Ashdod to a standstill with repercussions throughout the economy.

Government, whose eyes are on the election, is being criticized for not intervening at a time when the nation's foreign debts are almost £5,000m.

More industrial disputes are brewing since a decision to increase the pay of public service workers. Economists have accused ministers of disguising the seriousness of the financial crisis by printing extra money.

Other problems include the continued trend to emigration while overseas immigration and investment are drying up.

Dr. Sole said news should circulate with absolute freedom. He urged UNESCO to accede to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and promote the existence of multiple international news agencies, free from government influence.

Remodelled Army planned for Lebanon

From Robert Fisk
Beirut, April 20

President Sarkis seems certain to send regrouped contingents of the Lebanese Army into south Lebanon now that President Assad, of Syria, is reported to have agreed to the formation of a 50,000 strong force to replace the Army which disintegrated during the Lebanese civil war.

The Syrian newspaper *Al-Sharq* reported in Damascus today that the new army would eventually take over all the duties of the predominantly Syrian Arab League peacekeeping force in Lebanon. President Sarkis would soon issue a decree that would form the constitutional basis for future army action, it said.

Diplomatic sources in Beirut believe the first contingents of the new force will be sent, within nine or 10 days, to south Lebanon to police the strip of border territory adjacent to Israel in which Lebanese Christian militiamen and Palestinian guerrillas have been fighting intermittently for more than four months.

The Lebanese Government has made no secret of its inability to stop the fighting in the south. Syria's tentative attempt to send its own military forces into the area as part of the Arab League ceasefire army met with so much radical opposition from Israel that the few Syrian troops stationed within 15 miles of the Israeli border were pulled back to the central mountains.

President Sarkis, however, is known to be anxious to extend Lebanese Government control over the south and Israel could hardly raise objections if Lebanese troops were seen patrolling Lebanese villages.

During the war, a second lieutenant commander in the Muslim wing of the Lebanese Army, the soldiers who supported the Christian Maronite cause rallied to defend right-wing positions under General Hanaa Said, the Army's officially appointed commander-in-chief.

There were protest strikes in east Beirut, the Christian half of the capital, when General Said was relieved of his command two weeks ago and dispatched to the less political ranks of the diplomatic corps.

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Assad visit helps heal rift between Russia and Syria

From Edmund Stevens
Moscow, April 20

A reconciliation between Syria and Russia has begun in Moscow with the state visit of President Assad of Syria. It ends nearly a year of estrangement caused by Syria's intervention in the Lebanese civil war.

Mr. Leonid Brezhnev, the Soviet party leader, embraced "Comrade Assad" at Moscow airport and showed he was prepared to let bygones be bygones. The nearest Mr. Brezhnev came to a veiled reproach was at the Kremlin banquet for President Assad when he said: "There are sometimes disagreements in the policies of certain Arab states."

Mr. Brezhnev hopes to enlist Syrian support for Soviet moves to reconvene the Geneva peace conference and recover the initiative in the Middle East from the Americans.

Carefully harmonizing his approach to President Assad's preference for moderation, Mr. Brezhnev has been emphasizing the need for a peaceful solution. In his banquet speech, while supporting the Palestinians, he also affirmed

Israel's right to independence and a secure existence.

Earlier this month, in an article timed to coincide with the arrival of Mr. Yasser Arafat, the Palestine Liberation Organization leader, *Investia* was far more militant. Deriding American concern for the safety of Israel, it called for the return of Palestine, "their native land," to the Palestinians, and denounced "all forms of American capitalist plans for a settlement and liquidation of the Palestinian revolution." There was no reference to reconvening the Geneva conference.

In talks with Mr. Brezhnev, President Assad was vigorously defended Syrian intervention in the Lebanese civil war. He said his action was prompted solely by humanitarian motives and had succeeded in ending the bloodshed and rescuing Lebanon from its own destruction.

He also claimed to have saved the Palestinian resistance movement from being destroyed. President Assad avoided the sore subject of Syrian assaults on Palestinian camps.

Mr. Amir Taheri, editor-in-chief of the Iranian newspaper *Kayhan*, said some Third World countries did not allow in foreign journalists and even kept their population figures secret. "We must realize that, in some countries, governments do not want to inform their own people, let alone others," he said.

"We should not allow countries to propagate the idea that there is nothing wrong with them and to blame everything on the foreign press," he said.

Mr. Hamid Barada, a Moroccan working for the weekly *Jeune Afrique*, said a genuine journalist was moved by the desire to tell the truth.

Some Third World countries revolt against the alleged domination of the Western mass media because they do not want to publish reports of torture or repression by Amnesty International," Mr. Barada said.

"I do not think we should point an accusing finger at our colleagues from the Western press."

Mr. Mustapha Dabaj, of the Arab Revolution News Agency of Libya, said the Third World's true voice did not reach developed countries and a new information system must be created.

"For a long time the Third World has paid dearly for the economic and industrial confrontation between developing and developed countries," he said. The quality of information from Western media was poor and had not contributed to the development of Africa.—Reuter.



Public service: Civil servants in Laos have to devote their Saturdays to an irrigation project after spending the week in their offices in Vientiane.

Two hanged in Cairo for bomb attack

Cairo, April 20.—Two Egyptians were hanged today for planning a bomb that killed eight people and injured 68 others on a packed holiday train last summer.

The two had confessed to being members of a terrorist group paid by Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, to carry out bomb attacks throughout the country. Libya denied the allegations.

The hangings were the second and third in Egypt in the past 24 hours. A 27-year-old Palestinian was hanged yesterday for attempting to assassinate a former South Yemen Prime Minister now living in Cairo.—AP.

Philippines Muslim group rejects referendum

Manila, April 20.—The Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) today formally rejected a government-sponsored referendum in the south-western Philippines last Sunday in which preliminary results show a trend against autonomy for the region.

"We have rejected the referendum because it contradicted the letter and spirit of the Tripoli agreement and was not in conformity with the Gaddaf-Marcos agreement," Dr. Abdurrahman Amin, the MNLF's political spokesman, said in reply to a reporter's question.

The MNLF had previously called for a boycott of the referendum on the grounds that the questions contained in it were weighted against the movement and were not in accordance with the Gaddaf-Marcos agreement.

Dr. Amin was speaking after arriving at Manila airport from Tripoli as a member of an Islamic mission to resume talks on settling the rebellion.

The Elections Commission, the government agency which supervised the vote in 13 southern Philippines provinces, has said it expects to announce a final result on Saturday.

The commission said today that, based on partial, unofficial returns, more than 95 per cent of the votes rejected the autonomy proposal.

It said about 75 per cent of the 3,800,000 registered voters apparently had voted.—Reuter and Agence France-Press.

Foreign minister held hostage in El Salvador

San Salvador, April 20.—Marxist urban guerrillas have kidnapped Señor Mauricio Borbone Pohl, El Salvador's Foreign Minister, and are threatening to kill him unless the Government releases 37 of their comrades who have been jailed.

The guerrillas, who claim to be members of a group called the Popular Liberation Forces, kidnapped the 40-year-old minister as he left home in his car for his office.

El Salvador is under a state of siege imposed during rioting after presidential elections two months ago. The guerrillas are demanding that the 37 prisoners should be given safe conduct out of the country.—Reuter.

Prisoners are put on show at Zaire rally

Kinshasa, April 20.—President Mobutu of Zaire today presented the first two prisoners captured in anti-insurgency fighting in Shaba province to a mass rally here. The bandaged captives were exposed to the hatred of 60,000 chanting Zaireans.

"Death to them, death to them", one young Zairean cried as the prisoners, wounded in the head and neck, stood in a football stadium, 10 yards from President Mobutu on a podium.

The prisoners were taken in a counter-offensive by Government troops supported by pygmy bowmen who are advancing slowly against Katangese rebels from the copper-mining town of Kolwezi in an attempt to recapture the town of Mutsahasha.

The rally appeared to be the most enthusiastic of the three President Mobutu has organized since the start of the invasion. The dramatic appearance of the prisoners, had not been officially announced beforehand.

A soldier carrying an Israeli-made Uzi assault rifle stood next to the prisoners, ensuring that they did not lean on the podium railing. One prisoner appeared to be middle-aged, the other in his teens. Both were driven into the stadium in an open vehicle to the boos of the crowd.

Heavily armed soldiers and police, carrying tear gas, grenades and rifles, stood guard as President Mobutu condemned alleged Soviet involvement in the six-week Shaba fighting.

The Soviet Union, Cuba and Angola have denied Zairean allegations of involvement, but President Mobutu said: "They are liars."

In latest official accounts of the fighting, Government forces are said to have almost encircled Mutsahasha, the fall of which would be a big psychological victory for the Government's troops, who are receiving support from 1,500 Moroccan allies.

The invaders in the south are said to be members of the Katangese gendarmes which supported the secession of Shaba, then called Katanga, for three years in the early 1960s and later fled to Angola and other parts of Zaire.—Reuter.

In just three years Racad-Tacticom has trebled its exports

Racad Electronics Limited congratulates Racad-Tacticom and its subsidiaries on winning this year's Queen's Award for Export Achievement. This is a remarkable performance for the Racad-Tacticom Group of Companies. Exports have trebled in three years, significant strides have been made into the Latin American market and technological barriers have been broken in both HF and VHF tactical communications equipment.

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INTERESTY APPOINTMENTS

arrangements for some undergraduate practical courses and will be expected to initiate new course developments. He will be encouraged to undertake research with one of the existing research groups in the Department, which has good modern facilities.

20 May, 1977.

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**CHAIR OF CLINICAL
SCIENCE**

The Department of Clinical Science is one of nine departments in the John Curtin School of Medical Research and is located a short distance from the School in the Canberra Hospital. The Professor will be appointed until age 65. He will also be appointed Director of the Department for an initial term which would be determined by the University after consultation with the Professor. The appointee, who should be radically qualified, will be responsible for research work in the Department and should also contribute to this

search by developing a field clinical science. Clinical science may be undertaken in the field. The restriction is placed on the field clinical science to be ecological, i.e., an organism whose interests relate closely to research already being done in the School would be selected. Salary \$421,561 plus clinical loading of \$45,000.
18 June, 1977.

EXPERIMENTAL PATHOLOGY

The University is proceeding with an appointment to the Chair of Experimental Pathology. Applications are invited from research workers interested in those areas of basic research concerned with disease processes. The successful applicant will be appointed until 1965. He will also be appointed Head of Department for an initial term which could be determined by the University after consultation

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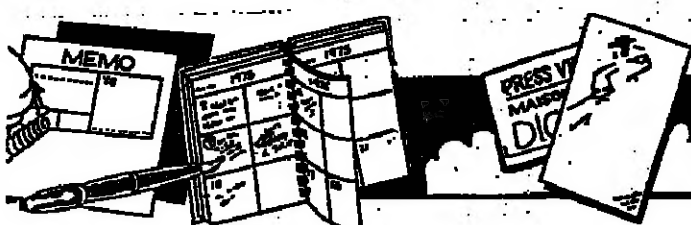
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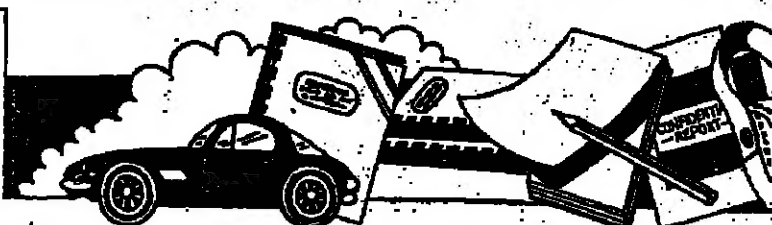
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SPORT

Football

Liverpool show their mastery against defeatist opponents

By Norman Fox
Football Correspondent

Liverpool 3
On May 25 in Rome Liverpool will attempt to fulfil their 13-year-old ambition by becoming only the third British club to win the European Cup. They will meet Borussia Mönchengladbach in the final. Despite the European involvement in the three European competitions over such a long period, they have never before reached the most senior final, but last night by competently dismissing a weak and defeatist Zurich team in the second leg of the semi-final round at Anfield they won the opportunity to crown more than a decade of remarkable consistency. The aggregate score was 5-1 and though Liverpool had played many more difficult European matches, none was so memorably important.

The first leg in Switzerland had proved their way to the final, and last night's formal completion of the first groundwork was done without too much unnecessary effort being wasted in a week that ends with another important game on Saturday, their FA Cup semi-final against Everton. By comparison with previous European occasions at Anfield, it was an almost anonymous affair, deprived of real interest by Liverpool's undisputed superiority.

Zurich, allegedly strengthened by the return of their Sicilian forward, Cucinotta, who missed the first through suspension, failed to prove the point. They were no more impressive than in Switzerland a fortnight before and it was Liverpool's understandably casual



Case (No 8) scores the first of Liverpool's three goals.

Clemence that was intended for Smith fell in the path of Cucinotta, the shot neatly trapped itself in the side-netting.

The second half brought tangible evidence of Liverpool's mastery. A superb second goal from Case brought the Kop to life. Kennedy made to take a free kick some 10 yards out from the penalty area, but stepped aside and Case followed up to pound an astonishingly powerful drive past transfixed defenders and a demoralized goalkeeper.

When Highway, who had struggled against a leg injury from the early minutes of the game, finally left the field, Waddle substituted, bringing useful height to the attack. The advantage was well used when, four minutes after the second goal, Kennedy dropped a long drifting centre into the penalty area. Waddle strongly won the ball in the air and headed against the bar. Keegan saw his chance and headed in the rebound. But Zurich's sadly inferior performance was even more embarrassing.

Giles resigns before flames of failure burn him, too

Johnny Giles, the West Bromwich Albion player-manager, will be leaving the club at the end of the season. The news was announced after last minute attempts by the Albion chairman, Bert Millichip, to change Giles' mind. Giles will continue playing until the end of the season and Albion will not be reverting for a replacement until then.

Giles, who resigned during the close season, but was persuaded to stay, has had a highly successful two years at the Hawthorns, gaining the club promotion in his first season, and then guiding them to a possible place in European competition this season. The draw with Coventry City on Tuesday put Albion among the top six.

Giles said: "I make it clear that I am not leaving in search of a higher income or because of any disagreement with the manager. I am leaving because I am tired of the club. Football, and more so management, are precarious positions. There is so much fear in the game that it spreads like the plague."

"The fear in the board room is communicated to the manager, the manager's tensions are transmitted to the players, the players become inhibited and scared, and perhaps, the last straw is the frustration of these frustrations overplay to the terrace. My only fear is that I will inevitably be consumed in

Docherty gives his men a warning

Tommy Docherty moved into Manchester United's FA Cup semi-final training headquarters at Blackpool yesterday with a warning to his players. "When you play for your place in the final at Wembley," he said.

His warning came after the lack of effort against Queens' Park Rangers in London on Tuesday night, when Rangers scored four goals, had another disallowed, and two were headed off the line. United's body clock came two minutes from the end with a 25-yard shot at goal that was pushed on to the bar.

Mr Docherty said: "They didn't want to get involved because of the semi-final, and I don't really blame them. There is more pressure about a semi-final

than a final, but we still need points to make sure of a place in Europe, so from now on they play or they don't get selected."

The United manager expects his players to be ready to play for the final at Wembley. "I don't mind that because they are certain to win the league, so whatever happens against Queens' Park Rangers, I don't mind playing in the Cup Winners' Cup," he said.

Mr Docherty expects a tough game with Leeds United at Hillsborough on Saturday. "Every team suddenly lifts themselves against us and all the injured players are suddenly fit on the day that we appear. It's a complaint to us really."

All the Manchester United casualties will be fit, including the captain, Buchan, and Hill, who

missed Tuesday night's game, and Brian Greenhoff, who was substituted at half-time. "I'll have a squad of about 15 players and I will select the team some time on Friday," Mr Docherty said.

Leeds United's Scottish international striker, Joe Jordan, did only light training yesterday. Jordan has been under treatment for a leg injury, started some time ago, but he is expected to play in the Ipswich Town, but Mr Armfield, the Leeds manager, said the injury was a little easier.

Hampton and Eddie Gray, who have also been under treatment for leg injuries, started full training yesterday, as did Harvey, the Scottish goalkeeper, who has been out with a shoulder injury. Mr Armfield said Harvey was not under consideration for Saturday's match.

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All dividends are subject to scrutiny FOR MATCHES PLAYED APRIL 18th

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23 pts. ...	£31.25
22 pts. ...	£35.05
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All dividends except Treble Chance declared to units of 10p. Expenses and Commission for 2nd April 1977—23.6%.

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Treble Chance dividends to units of 10p. Above dividends to units of 10p. Expenses and Commission 2nd April 1977—23.9%.

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Neither side safe in tangled web

By Gerald Richmond

Derby 1
A game which both sides needed to win and neither could afford to lose was left drawn after two penalty goals. The game was a tactical battle, with both sides trying to survive without the game in their hands.

Unflagging effort gives both sides little reward

By Tom German

Stoke 2
It was a night on which momentum would have struggled for balance in Stoke: a night when a precariousness of a sudden shift in the game could have tipped the scales. Both Stoke City and Bristol City were in a state of unrelenting effort, but neither side was able to break through the other's defence.

Spurs' bravery fails to earn even a point

By Arthur Osman

Aston Villa 2 Tottenham 1
A night that started in a spirit of warm celebration with the return of the Tottenham Hotspur players to the club, ended in a disappointing manner. Tottenham's bravery in the face of Aston Villa's attack was commendable, but it was not enough to earn them a point.

Rugby Union Round world to score Aylesbury duck

By Nicholas Keith

Bucks 3
Buckinghamshire won a famous victory over Sydney at Aylesbury last evening. It is a strange irony that Sydney should travel round the world, play in such far distant places as Japan, Moscow, and Vancouver, and most defeat in rural Buckinghamshire.

Cricket W Indies win Test to clinch series

Kingston, Jamaica, April 20

West Indies won the fifth Test match today by 140 runs to clinch the five-match series 2-1 against Pakistan, who were all out in their second innings for 301. Asif Iqbal scored 135.

Bedser has a wasted day

Alec Bedser, the chairman of the selectors, was among those who had a wasted day at Lord's, where no play was possible in the match between MCC and Middlesex, the pipe-opener to the cricket season.

Today's cricket

London: MCC v Middlesex (11.0 a.m.)

Cardiff: Glamorgan v Glamorgan (1.0 p.m.)

Worcestershire v Gloucestershire (1.0 p.m.)

Warwickshire v Warwickshire (1.0 p.m.)

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Proportional representation may not be as fair as its supporters suggest

The danger of electing Parliament to be a 'dictator'

Ronald Butt

The supporters of a more proportional system of election for the House of Commons have fallen upon me in the letters columns for my suggestion last week that, if such a system is adopted for the European Parliament, this should not be a precedent for Westminster. The subject is so important, and the supporters of electoral change are so astute and decided in their cause—for which I respect them—that I do not think I need apologise for returning to it.

The advocates of a different electoral system usually manage to imply two assumptions which are incorrect. The first is that those who oppose abandoning the first-past-the-post system are also opposed to other reforms of the political structure. The second is that the present electoral system is really the root of all that is now wrong with the body politic.

Mr Tim Rathbone, MP, managed to imply both things when he invoked Lord Hailsham's recent letter on the danger of an "elective dictatorship" of the House of Commons. Where Lord Hailsham argues for the presumed clarity of a simply yes/no vote by electors, Mr Rathbone, "Lord Hailsham points out how this leads to elective dictatorship" (my italics). I have carefully read and reread Lord Hailsham's letter, but I cannot see any phrase in it which suggests that the dangers of elective dictatorship arise from the electoral system.

Whether or not Lord Hailsham is now inclined towards

the idea of what is called electoral reform is not for me to say. But in his speech (reported on April 5) he cited the Lib-Lab pact as an indication of the "evils of elective dictatorship" because, unlike the sort of coalition deal which accepts the electorate's verdict of a "hung" Parliament immediately after an election, the present pact is specifically designed to prevent an election and to stop the people expressing another opinion, after a "hung" Parliament has existed for two and a half years.

In short, what Lord Hailsham is attacking is the concept of the "sovereignty of Parliament" as a euphemism for the dictatorship of the House of Commons when the House of Commons, unchecked by any other efficient arm of the constitution, deliberately resists references back to the people. I thoughtfully agree, and I should have thought that a proportional system of voting, which perpetually produced no majority Parliaments whose groups made political deals after the election, was, in truth, likely to increase the danger of a dictatorship of the House of Commons. For the result would be that one deal would follow another to ensure that the existing House of Commons remained in being, however much with public opinion it had become.

Such a dictatorship was, indeed, the system under which we lived from 1689 to 1832, and we are fortunate in being able to study and reflect on its consequences. The House of Commons had been reduced to little more than furnishing sup-

port (including the provision of places and profits to purchase parliamentary loyalties, and Treasury money with which to win elections) for the dominant Whig Party. The factions of that party divided power between them and combined and recombined among themselves to prevent elections until the very last moment of a Parliament's legal life—which had already been lengthened, in the Whig interest, to seven years. It was, and is, a fact of politics that long Parliaments and infrequent appeals to the people enable a prevailing party to dig itself in.

Thus, the "sovereignty" and, indeed, the virtual dictatorship of Parliament was exalted during the eighteenth century above the sovereignty of the people, with only the judiciary offering any serious check to it. Yet John Locke, whose political philosophy underlay much of the thinking of the Revolution, specifically asserted the people's right to break their "contract" with Parliament as well as with the King if the purposes for which that contract was entered into were being undermined.

Parliament (he wrote) "being only a fiduciary power to act for certain ends, there remains still in the people a supreme power to remove or alter the legislative (ie, the legislature) when they find that the legislature act contrary to the trust reposed in them". It is also, perhaps, worth recalling that the Revolution was itself the work of the great peers of the realm, there being no House of Commons in existence at the time.

So it is arguable, even on the principles of the Revolution which created the dominance of the Commons, that the "sovereignty" of the Commons is not absolute, and that if the Commons ever chose to behave arbitrarily, the notional "contract" between them and the people would be as breakable as that between a people and its Executive. But, of course, "sovereignty", apart from the symbolic and unifying sovereignty of the Crown as the representative of the nation and the arbiter of last resort in certain rare circumstances, is always an elusive and even dangerous concept.

"Sovereignty" is not properly in any one organ of the constitution. It is, or it ought to be, spread around (even if that appears a contradiction in terms). To put it another way, in words from Lord Hailsham's speech: "The advocates of the sovereignty of Parliament ought to be made to learn... (the lesson) that the only sovereign in this country apart from the Queen is the people. That is the electorate."

I would add that a House of Commons which can be kept indefinitely in such a way as to frustrate electoral opinion, or which can push through legislation, even of a constitutional sort, unchecked by an effectively constituted second chamber, runs the risk of usurping a sovereignty which is not proper to it.

The House of Commons is

the preeminent part of our constitution yet it ought not to have unchecked power. This is why I would like to see a respected and responsible second chamber with defined constitutional rights, and it is also why other people would like to see a Bill of Rights.

I am sceptical about a Bill of Rights, not because it would "usurp" the sovereignty of the Commons but because it might both impede the fluidity of the evolving constitution (which in a sense is always in flux) and endanger the sovereignty of the electorate by enabling this or that "civil rights" movement to exploit this or that broad constitutional statement of noble principle to frustrate what the electorate actually wants.

Yet, whatever differences of opinion there may be about particular proposals for constitutional improvement, the fact remains that there is no more than a sort of oppositional system of representation and not necessarily other sorts of constitutional reform, and not all those who see dangers in the present state of the constitution necessarily see "electoral reform" as the answer.

Mr Rathbone begged the question in the most amazing way when he advocated a new electoral system on the grounds that the House of Commons has "usurped a sovereignty which is not proper to it".

through a reasonably long Parliament". Why, if the electorate gives a provisional verdict, which clearly invites an early reference back to them (as in 1974) should there have to be a "reasonably long Parliament"? May the electorate not wisely say—make the best of this "not proven" verdict and ask us again in a couple of years, which, I think, what they did in 1974?

As things are now, the electorate is deliberately not being asked because the spirit of the constitution is being frustrated. Mr Rathbone thinks that the danger of the "elective dictatorship" is "horribly pertinent" to the case for electoral reform. I cannot think of a better way of ensuring an electoral dictatorship than a proportional system which always produces "hung" Parliaments, which enables minorities to be formed by a process in which the electorate has virtually no say, and which ensures on the eighth count of the electoral process that the electorate are avoided whenever possible.

Mr Francis Bannion, in an earlier letter attacking Lord Hailsham's speech, thought that it was logically impossible for an elective system to be a dictatorship. How, I wonder, would he describe a House of Commons which was determined to legislate to perpetuate itself indefinitely? It has happened in our history, and much more recently some Labour politicians have threatened to lengthen a Parliament's life to get their programme through.

Of course, in some ways, proportional systems are fairer to small parties, though this depends on the precise system and how far it is designed to exclude extreme parties—which may be right, but can hardly be described as "fair". One correspondent, Mr Stephen Lees, suggested that proportional representation has no inherent preference for the centre or bias against extremes, but I do not think many of its present advocates would support a system which resulted in a "fair" coalition of extremists.

But fairness is a pretty empty concept in this context. Proportional systems may be fairer to parties, but it is much fairer to voters to give them a real choice of (say) three parties instead of two (on the Blake, or German, systems) at the price of an inability to vote for a clear-majority Parliament? That is my answer to Sir Gilbert Longdon. To give the voters the "real reflection" of their wishes that he wanted, we would need a really proportionate system with a profusion of small parties and the end of the Westminster system of representation. Nobody is seriously suggesting that.

Mr Richard Holmes asks whether I think that the 60 per cent of the electorate who vote for defeated candidates have failed. To the extent that they lack a sufficiently clear consensus to promote an effective party between them, yes they have. But, of course, a wide government makes genuine notes of opposition feeling (particularly when the opposition is

efficient enough to be winning the battle of ideas, which is why Conservative governments are often less Conservative than they might be, and Labour governments are less Labour).

As for Mr Holmes's faith in the 74 per cent in a public opinion poll supporting a proportional system, it is one thing for a sample of people to say "yes" to an anodyne question which has not been argued out at the hustings, and quite another for the electorate to vote for it after a proper debate in the country. After all, the Liberal made "electoral reform" their main plank. It is that is what the country basically believes we need, why doesn't it vote them to power which it can do under the present system?

It is curious that, when the present system produced large and clear majorities, electoral reform was advocated because third parties were unfairly squeezed out. Now that third parties are doing quite well and even increasingly well, electoral reform is advocated on the grounds that third parties are making the system unworkable. The truth is that the present system has produced considerable periods of the three-party politics and coalitions in the last 60 years. It has also produced long periods of clear majority governments. In other words, it has expressed changing electoral needs appropriately—what, what could the voter? Which way to go? There is nothing wrong with the present parliamentary system, because there is.

Jobs for the boys: Europe must take the risk of the 35-hour week

The recent Rome summit of EEC heads of government commissioned Mr Roy Jenkins to prepare proposals to deal with one of Europe's most intractable social and economic problems—the growing tide of youth unemployment. It is a problem which is easier to diagnose than to solve.

There are many reasons why the present recession in jobs has hit the under-25s hardest in every EEC country. One reason is the lack of contact between educational institutions and the business world—a problem to which the current "great debate" on education in the United Kingdom is relevant.

A second reason is that most employers practice "last-in, first-out" redundancy policies, so that when workers have to be laid off it is usually the youngest who go first. A third reason is that more girls are now competing in the labour market, so that there are more youngsters competing for jobs than in the past.

Fourth, legislative and trade union pressures have narrowed the gap between wages of young and adult workers, so that youthful labour is no longer cheap labour. Moreover, the same forces have made it extremely costly, and in many cases very difficult, in all EEC countries for employers to sack workers. Labour is becoming increasingly a fixed rather than a variable cost. The result is that employers are becoming more reluctant to take on new workers, unless they can be absolutely certain that they will have a continuing need for them. The young are thus having to pay for the increased job security of their elders.

This means that the problem of youth unemployment cannot be solved in isolation from the overall job problem, apart from improvements, important but marginal, which can be made in all EEC countries to prepare young people for work.

So far as can be seen, Europe is unlikely to see much improvement in its employment position until well into the 1980s. In the United Kingdom on present trends it seems entirely possible that unemployment will almost double, to about 2,500,000, by

1982. The prospects in other EEC countries are a little better, but not much.

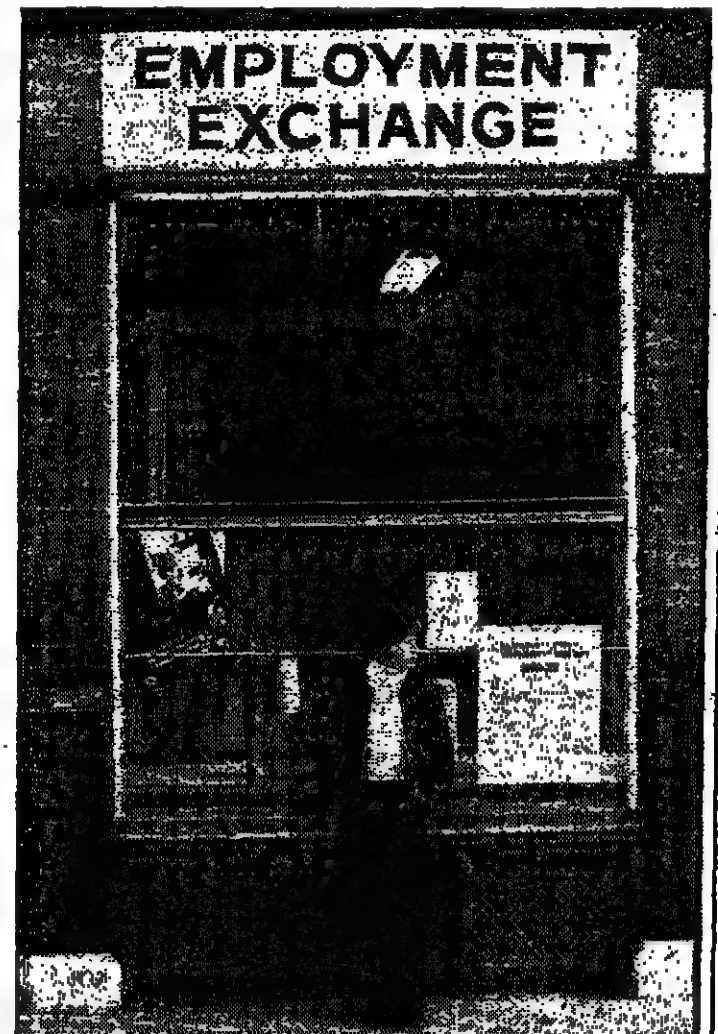
There are three basic reasons for this. First, the growth rate for Europe's economies has been slowing down. Second, the numbers seeking work are rising steeply, as the products of the "baby boom" of the 1950s reach working age. Third, western Europe is increasingly feeling the effects of the growth of automation, substituting capital for labour to an enormous extent.

Since productivity is increasing at an accelerating rate of perhaps 4 per cent a year throughout the EEC as a whole, any rate of overall economic growth below that figure is likely to increase the numbers out of work. Increases of substantially more than 4 per cent a year are needed to reduce the present unacceptably high figure of unemployment, and to find jobs for the extra working coming on to the labour market (another million in the United Kingdom alone by 1982). Yet few forecasts are prepared to predict that the EEC as a whole will achieve growth rates of that amount, year in year out, in the foreseeable future.

In other words, it looks as if for some years to come there will be fewer jobs available in western Europe as a whole than will be demanded—and as long as that is so, it will be the young who will find jobs harder to get. In this situation, it seems to me that we have to look very carefully at possible schemes for work sharing. This means, essentially, reductions in working hours and/or earlier retirement.

There must be a strong case, in present circumstances, for planning to reduce the retirement age in EEC industry from 65 to 60 for men (to bring them into equality with women). There is an equally strong case, I believe, for planning a gradual reduction in the basic working week from 40 hours to 35.

However, if such a move is to take place it has to be carefully planned and phased over a period of years. No single country could afford to move in this way. It is entirely new ground for the European Commission, in 1975 the Council of



co-ordinate the approach of the EEC countries, in accord with the United States (which has the same problems as western Europe) and Japan.

Moreover, there has to be a close working relationship with the trade unions on one aspect. First, since a reduction in working hours will increase labour costs as well as a reduction in the retirement age—it would be economic suicide to combine such a move with a rash of inflationary wage claims. Shorter working hours must be seen, and accepted by the unions, as an alternative to straight wage increases, if we are to avoid another serious twist of the inflationary spiral.

Second, a shorter working week can only increase job opportunities if there is a genuine reduction in hours worked. Employers and workers have to guarantee that the effect of a shorter basic week will not be sabotaged by compensating rises in the amount of overtime. This is not entirely new ground for the European Commission, in 1975 the Council of

Ministers approved a recommendation that the 40-hour week and four weeks' annual holiday should be mandatory throughout the EEC by the end of 1978 (the Commission had wanted the date to be 1976).

At the time there seemed little relevance to the recommendation, but now it is clear that hours of work are moving into the centre of political discussion. If the Community is serious about reducing unemployment, especially among its young people, it will not be enough though it is certainly necessary—to step up rates of growth.

There must also be serious moves towards genuine work sharing, on the basis of shorter working hours. But this has to be done in such a way as to avoid serious economic disturbance. If governments, employers and unions find the political will to work together to achieve such an urgent, though risky, social advance, Europe will have come of age.

Michael Shanks

The spirit of the Wild West has moved into the space age

After talking to New Yorkers who are totally opposed to the landings by Concorde, it makes a change to go to Dallas or Fort Worth, in Texas, and find that Concorde is actually welcome. Concorde is due to land at the giant new airport which serves both cities, perhaps later this year. The airport officials look on it as a vast asset.

The idea is that Briffault Airlines crews should take over a Concorde six days a week when it arrives at Dallas Airport, outside Washington, from London or Paris. They will then fly it, substantially to Dallas-Fort Worth, where it will pick up a new load of passengers and return to Dallas. On three of the days it will fly on to London, and on the other three to Paris.

The object, of course, is to provide a quick flight to London or Paris for Texans and other westerners in a hurry. But the lesson is a deeper one than that. It is that in Texas there is a "frontier spirit" which looks to the future with unimpaired enthusiasm and is inclined to be impatient of environmental and other such restrictions.

It is perhaps to be expected that Texans should claim the largest airport in the world. The Dallas-Fort Worth Airport is said to be the size of Manhattan, and the people who run it speak proudly of its hav-

ing been built for a still undeveloped area, with an autonomous train system to take you from one part to another. It is on a wide plain, far from any city, and there are no local residents to complain about Concorde.

Both Dallas and Fort Worth are full of businessmen dedicated to the free market economy and sure that it is the way to continue making money. Dallas has built some striking new buildings to house the Market Centre in which wholesalers around the world can display their wares. Fort Worth, long known as a "cow town" because of its stock yards, now has some well designed and well stocked art museums.

Significantly, Texans, with all their energy resources, tend to see the energy crisis in relatively simple terms. The solution, according to the ones I met, is to push ahead on all fronts—by allowing gas prices to rise and so encouraging production, by allowing more mining of coal, by pressing ahead with nuclear power, by developing solar energy, and above all by allowing producers to make a profit.

This was something that struck me on a recent trip that took me to Southern California, Arizona, Texas and Hawaii. In all the areas I visited people seemed to feel

that the future was something to be looked forward to and planned for. In California, I went to Mission Viejo, a new town between Los Angeles and San Diego, built on the rolling hills that flank the Pacific. The first people moved into Mission Viejo in 1968, but the population is expected to grow to 50,000 in the next few years.

This being Southern California, houses are being built in a sort of "early California Spanish" style. The town is planned as a whole and all round it house, school, shopping and other heavy equipment levelling ground, houses at all stages of construction, plans being laid for schools and supermarkets. Even a large lake is being filled, with the intention that in due course it will be surrounded by houses and used for swimming, fishing and sailing.

The Mission Viejo Company, which is responsible for the project—and which is wholly owned by Philip Morris, the large cigarette company—says complacently that so many people want to buy houses that they are chosen by lot.

Local residents say they like the town because it gives them a chance to put down roots. It is an identifiable community with a community sense, and so provides them with something that often gets lost in the suburban sprawl that comprises much of the area.

In Phoenix, Arizona, too, people have been pouring over the last few years. Much of it is essentially desert, and careful thought has to be given to where the population's water comes from. But neither that nor the summer heat wave has prevented the city from growing from 100,000 inhabitants in 1950 to 700,000 now.

The centre of the city is full of sleek new skyscrapers, and though the outskirts are often little more than desert scrub, there are a few extremely luxurious suburbs like Paradise Hills, where orange-pink earth and golf courses carefully watered grow course greens, and where, in an act of conspicuous consumption, an artificial lake squirts the world's highest fountain, into the parched soil.

In their search for water the "Arizona" Mass dammed the Salt River and created huge reservoirs in the surrounding mountains. They have also embarked on an ambitious plan for bringing water across the Colorado River in the west. But this plan, known as the Central Arizona Project, has been much criticized by environmentalists and others, and President Carter has drawn the fury of local officials by suspending federal funding for it.

Peter Strafford

An occasional series on new words and new meanings

Presenting a misleading appearance

Probation officers prepare documents called social inquiry reports on accused persons for the "pick-up" of the case to be dealt by a judge. The accused, and then go on to describe his or her personal appearance. At this point the report states: "He presents as a bright/dull-downcast person. This case is an intransigent case. The defendant is the probation service. It is an example of a common trend in the new sociology: the intransigent use of transitive or reflexive verbs. Other examples are 'he adjusts', 'he identifies', and 'he transpires', used intransitively.

We profane outsiders, standing in awe outside the new temple of sociology listening to the mysteries, can see little

need for this odd new use. "He presents as a dull person" does not seem to say anything more than "he appears to be a dull person".

The proper study of sociology is mankind and life in society. But if it uses man's ordinary language to describe its studies, it is afraid that they will be despised as elementary. However, it is not necessary to use complicated language to describe complicated thoughts. Wittgenstein and Bertrand Russell managed to convey exceptionally complicated ideas in simple and lucid language. Sociologists have in fact made important new insights into the human condition. But their invertebrate penchant for pretentious gobbledygook encourages the unkind suspicion that all they are

doing is "obscurely systematizing the obvious".

Euphemism as well as pretentiousness makes them "underprivileged", "disadvantaged", or "lower paid", when a plain man might say "poor" or "poorer", and convey the same meaning. Sociologists are largely responsible for the plague of otiose situations that rage, as in "the classroom situation". Why do they say "ongoing" when the verb is "continue"? "The case" is usually superfluous, and "the existence of" is invariably superfluous. To look at something is lazy, ill-defined, and vague, when we could examine, re-examine, appraise, or simply think about it.

Philip Howard

The Times Diary

Backing the losing side once more

To lead an undercover existence and to try to promote a book at the same time is to be in a situation fraught with contradiction. "Robinson is never late," said the man from Harper and Row, his publisher, as we climbed the stairs to his office for our appointment. Yet as we waited 20 minutes for the elusive author to arrive, the publisher confessed that he could not telephone him, because he did not know where he was staying.

Robinson Rojas Sandford is a Chilean Maoist. His book, *The Murder of Allende*, is published next week. It describes the death of the Chilean President in elaborate detail, and documents the American involvement in the military coup during which he was shot.

After the coup, Rojas (he uses his second name as his surname) took refuge in the Peruvian embassy before being given a safe conduct to the airport. But he believes the Chilean "fascists" would like to get their hands on him, and fears the vigilance of their secret police.

The publishers like to dramatize this aspect of his visit. "He goes round with a friend, Enrique Rodriguez, one told me, as we awaited their arrival. 'More of a bodyguard, really,' corrected the other, conspiratorially.

In 1974, about a year after the coup, Rojas went to China to work on the Peking Review, and left only a few weeks ago. He does not expect to return, because he supported the losing side, the Gang of Four, in the power struggle following Chairman Mao's death.

"I lost in 1973," he said belatedly. "And then four years later I have lost again."

He draws a surprising parallel between what happened in Chile and what has just happened in China. "It is the same phenomenon but in a socialist society rather than a capitalist one. In both places there was a successful coup. The army and the bureaucracy took power. The Chinese working class, like the Chilean working class, lost power."

But in China, according to Rojas's analysis, it was a long

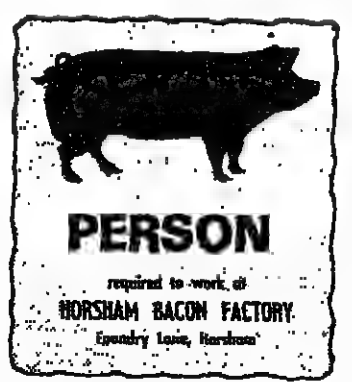
process. The coup last October was just the last chapter of a long drama that began in 1971 after Lin Biao's death. It was not a sudden thing.

Another Chilean parallel, he believes, is in the roles of General Pinochet and Chairman Mao (though he insists on calling him Mister) Hua. Both men were placed in office, he maintains, by people and powerful themselves, but then proceeded to exert the power of their office to an extent which surprised those who had put them in it.

"Mr Hua is the general representative of the new bureaucratic class," Rojas says. "He was put there by senior people in the army and Ministry of Defence, and by others like Teng Hsiao-Ping. But now there is a struggle for power between Teng and Hua."

But this, he stressed, was an internal struggle among the bureaucrats. The only way to resolve the more important struggle between the "exploiting" class and the Chinese workers was, he feared, through civil war, and there were signs that it was already beginning.

Rojas, though, will not be there to watch. He plans to write a book about China, and will, probably settle in Spain to do it, though he declines to be specific. "I don't want to make things easy for the Chilean secret police," he explained, smiling nervously.



This advertisement from the West Sussex County Times illustrates the special problems of identification encountered by those who live in remote and unpopulated rural areas.

This England

The silver jubilee promotion which is likely to be seen by most visitors to Britain this year is centred not on modern royalty but on William Shakespeare. Selfridges have transformed their fourth floor exhibition area into an Elizabethan village, with shops and market stalls given an old-world look with simulated beams and medieval lettering. From the end of the month until September, many of the store's windows are to feature characters from Shakespeare's

plays. Some stiff tableaux of conspiring Romans and dotting lovers are already on display inside.

In the Elizabethan village yesterday an old-fashioned cobbler was sewing shoes called Moccasin Wallabies from machine-cut parts. A stall was offering severe plastic dolls of Elizabeth II and rather friendlier ones of Henry VIII and two of his less well-known wives. The Elizabethan tavern sold wrapped "overfilled American sandwiches".

There were also a group of players in puff pants and baggy hose, who are to be appearing regularly for the next six months performing extracts from Shakespeare's plays. Yesterday they had their piece involving Sir Toby Belch and Sir Andrew Aguecheek from *Twelfth Night*, and Kate and Petruchio from *The Taming of the Shrew*. A peculiar way to celebrate.

Heal thyself

Three identical envelopes arrived on the desk of the company secretary of *The Times* last week. They all contained a copy of a brochure from Inter Mail Ltd entitled "Cut your wasted mailings".

"Is your mail going to the right addresses?" it asked. "With the constant threat of even higher postal charges coupled with ever increasing

stationery costs, wasted mailing is a big drain on company profits."

Here at Inter Mail lists are maintained to the highest possible standard of accuracy by our own experienced research team. Every available source of information is gathered and any necessary amendments, additions or deletions, are made daily.

The brochures were mailed to the Sales Promotion Manager and the Group Publicity Manager of *The Times*, Newspapers, and the Sales Promotion Manager for the Thomson Organisation. None of these people exists.

Two wrongs

There were mixed pickings in Strasbourg yesterday for the eight Russian journalists and broadcasters who have been taking a close interest in the protracted Anglo-Irish torture case, now approaching its final stages. During the morning the Russians occupied their usual seats inside the spacious European Court of Human Rights, making copious notes, while a Soviet cameraman filmed the uninspiring tableau of British and Irish lawyers, black-robed judges and foreign journalists for the second day running.

The tough-looking Russian team includes a man each from both the London and Paris offices of Tass and Pravda, one of whom was detained by the



Later in the afternoon the boot switched to the other foot when a group in the European Parliament called a press conference in the gleaming new building next to the court. The subject was human rights, and the star speaker was Andrei Amalrik, the dissident Soviet historian and former inmate of a Siberian prison camp, now exiled to The Netherlands where he holds a post at Utrecht University.

A few of the Soviet reporters were spotted in the crowded conference room as the bespectacled Amalrik launched a bitter attack in Russian on the lack of human rights in the USSR. Much of his invective was reserved for the plan to hold the Olympic Games in Moscow in 1980 while "thousands of people" were being held in camps because of their political views. British reporters had little doubt which of the two Strasbourg stories would get more prominence in the Russian papers.

The Prime Minister was in his sunniest mood when he presented the British Press Awards in London yesterday. "I come here," he told the guests, "with mingled apprehension and exhilaration—what Mr Biggs must have felt when he went aboard HMS Daunt."

PHS

Austrian tourism and conference centres

a Special Report

Country always in season

by Pieter Zwart

Austria, like Spain, used to be considered an inexpensive country to visit. This is no longer true nowadays. It depends very much on the type of holiday one takes. For instance there are low-budget motorist holidays with some 780 farmhouses and hotels listed where one pays £2 to £3 a person a night.

The package tour operators have also kept their prices reasonable by buying blocks of beds for a season at some say a quarter of the cost price for the individual. But in the main—with the falling pound and the strengthening of the schilling—it may be said that, for British tourists, Austria is expensive and is becoming more so despite its low inflation rate of 7 per cent a year.

Tourism is the most important item on the export side in the balance of trade. Last year it covered 54 per cent of the deficit in the balance of trade, and the year before 90 per cent.

Though there was a small drop in tourist figures last year—1 per cent—Dr Helmut Zoller, managing director of the Austrian National Tourist Office, is confident that this is only a temporary setback. He says: "The winter season is running well. We look forward with optimism to the summer season."

Austria has a special appeal for the conference trade. It is a stable country politically, pursuing a policy of "active neutrality" and thus attracts world leaders. It has the facilities to accommodate large international conferences, in Vienna's Hofburg for instance, and is looking to the future with self-confidence in building a new Austrian conference hall on the site of the United Nations City which will house the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

It is also a country used for sensitive talks such as the Cyprus conference. Geographically the country is at the important crossroads between East and West. No wonder then that places ranging from ski resorts to

smaller spas and towns are becoming concerned with providing meeting halls for delegates who can enjoy the particular attractions they offer the ordinary tourist.

Austria is fortunate in having an all-year-round season. It can offer skiing in the Alps in the winter, and outdoor sports such as sailing, riding, and mountaineering in the summer. In addition, many of its cities have a wealth of culture to be explored by tourists.

In its promotion this year the Austrian National Tourist Office is emphasizing the unspoiled nature of much of the countryside. The joys of a low-budget motorist holiday are being promoted—it is still possible in a village 15 miles from Vienna, Gumpoldskirchen, to sample the new wine in an inn where the landlord makes his own wine and advertises the heurige of his house with pine boughs suspended on a long pole.

Austria has many hotels, ranging from the family-service pensions to larger, newer hotels such as the Hilton in Vienna and a Holiday Inn in Innsbruck. Indeed there is a danger of over-capacity; in Vienna, for instance, no further government aid is being given for new hotels. The tourist office organizes an annual tourist exchange (now in its second year) early in the season where hoteliers can meet tour operators and others interested in the travel trade to discuss such things as hotel bookings.

The Vienna Tourist Board has responded to Vienna's over-capacity by organizing an electronic booking system for hotels and pensions in the city, where larger hotels have telex links and smaller hotels telephone connections. No favouritism can be shown by the computer since demands for accommodation are dealt with in strict rotation of those needing visitors. Though the hoteliers may point out with pride that their prices have kept pace only with the prices index, they still face high taxes and charges on drinks (for instance service, beverage, VAT and music charges). These may amount to 50 per cent and one may pay about £1.50 for a beer and 75p for a soft drink. The

taxes are about three times as high as in Germany and Italy. Some argue that only the cost-price of the drink to the selling-point should be used for taxation to bring down prices.

Austria is capitalizing on its natural assets, trying to attract more young visitors by emphasizing its outdoor sporting facilities for summer and winter. With the strong competition from other countries for tourists it is trying to do more in the cities.

There are also talks going on between the Vienna Tourist Board and the opera authorities to see whether opera tickets can be released to tour operators so that a visit to the opera becomes more than an outside chance for visitors. In addition, the Spanish riding school in the Hofburg, where deaf movements are performed to music throughout the year except in the summer months, is coming to London this autumn to promote Vienna.

The Viennese are realizing the worth of their museums—they have an interesting watch museum, for instance, and one of the finest collections of Breughel paintings in their National Gallery and of Rubens drawings in their Albertina gallery. Outside Vienna the romantic appeal of castles (castles) and palaces is being promoted.

Few cities have done more than Salzburg to promote their romantic appeal. The city is still the backdrop of the Sound of Music or the Christmas show of Perry Como for many Americans. But for some years the tourist board has helped about a hundred couples a year from all over the world who get married there in the marble hall of the Mirabell Palace.

For those to be married in Salzburg the city tourist office will arrange the stag party, the wedding reception, order the photographer and the bouquets, make the hair appointment and book the band, and inform the couple of the price-reductions not only in hotels but among jewellers and florists. Nearly all the bridegroom has to do is to propose to his bride that they be married in Salzburg.

Getting results with gemütlichkeit

by Annelise Schulz

Inevitably, all discussions on the merits of Vienna as a conference centre start with reminiscences about the Congress of Vienna, that famous gathering of 1814-15 in the sparkling capital of the Austrian Empire, one of the four powers which overthrew Napoleon.

The Austrians say it was Lord Castlereagh, the British Foreign Minister, who proposed Vienna as the most suitable venue for the meeting entrusted with working out the post-Napoleonic political order in Europe. The balance of power decided at the congress remained fairly intact until the First World War, yet it was above all the magnificent hospitality of the Austrian court and the gay social life which were remembered by history, with Talleyrand's famous quote "le congrès s'amuse".

In the small neutral Austria of today, people still love this image of the capital as a place of gaiety and merry-making where results are achieved in a happy, light-hearted mood. Much of the imperial splendour has disappeared, but there is still a special ambience thanks to the remaining architectural and art treasures, the cultural events and scenic beauties which attract visitors.

What is more, the Viennese had the good sense to establish an international congress centre inside the former Habsburg Winter Palace, combining historic facilities with modern technical equipment.

This Hofburg Congress Centre was opened in 1963 in the former state and reception rooms of the palace, among them the Throne Room, the Privy Council Chamber, the Festival Hall, and the Knights' Chamber. Their outward appearance with magnificent chandeliers, wall decorations remained almost unchanged.

Among this year's bookings are international meetings of doctors,

visual apparatus, including five interpreter networks each for the simultaneous translation of six to eight languages, were installed. The Hofburg centre has conference space for up to 3,000 people in 15 rooms.

A new office wing provides facilities for press, radio and television coverage, film projectors, closed-circuit television, video recorders, 40 telephone trunk lines with 170 extensions inside the building, separate radio and television studios, 50 telex points, sufficient space for exhibitions, documentation, printing facilities, typing pools, and eight large and 40 small offices.

The vast marble entrance hall houses reception and information desks, travel office, bank and exchange counter, post office, messenger service, newspaper stand, cigarette and souvenir shops, and cloak rooms. Visitors walk up the grand red-carpeted staircase—with a bust of Emperor Franz Joseph at the top—to the first floor conference area. The large Festival Hall which can seat 1,200 delegates, occasionally happy, light-hearted mood.

The Hofburg Congress Centre has been administered since 1963 by a private company owned by a group of large Vienna hotels which leased the Hofburg premises from the Government. The company has so far made a profit, especially since the Government must pay the same rental as other institutions when using the conference facilities.

In fact, the Government is an important client. About half the events held at the Hofburg centre are booked by the Austrian authorities or the United Nations. The remainder are private functions of varying size and duration.

In 1976, 460 conference days were registered, counting individual events which may take place simultaneously in different halls.

Among this year's bookings are international meetings of doctors,

veterinarians, economic consultants, insurance companies, dieticians, and the Young Presidents Organization, an American club of those who have become company chairmen before reaching 40.

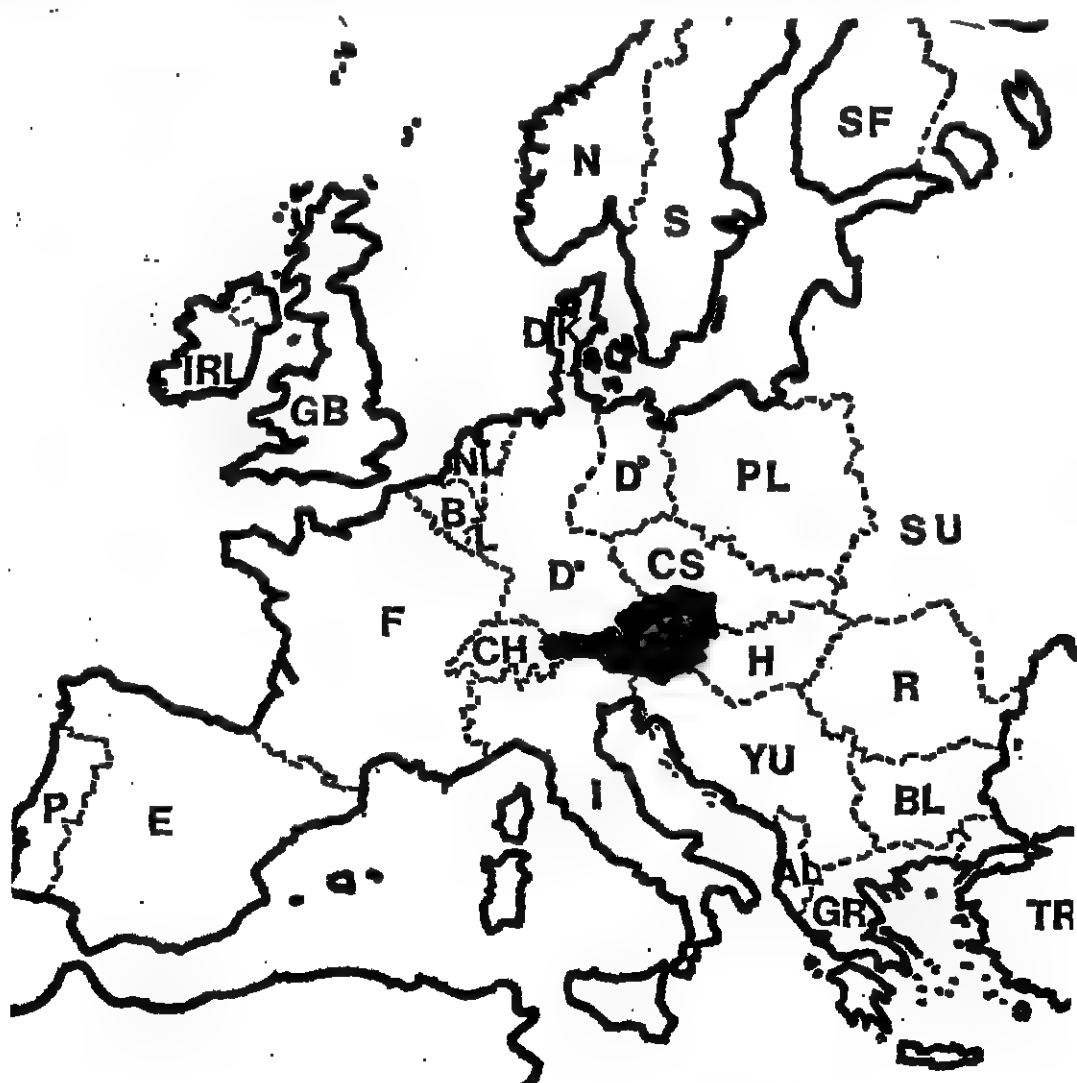
Herr Ernst Stock, director of the Hofburg company, is particularly proud that 1,500 members of this exclusive club will come to his conference halls in May because they preferred historic Vienna to the attractions of Monte Carlo.

An additional advantage of the Hofburg is its central location. There is parking space for 500 cars on the main palace square, but the centre is within walking distance of Vienna's major hotels, the Opera, and the city centre with its pedestrian shopping zone.

The Hofburg premises are not the only congress facilities in Vienna. Nine large hotels, among them the Intercontinental and Hilton, can provide conference space for up to 1,100 delegates. Favourite places for smaller gatherings are several houses of the nobility like the Palais Pallavicini and the Palais Salffy in Josefsplatz adjoining the Hofburg, Palais Schwarzenberg overlooking the Belvedere Palace Gardens, or Palais Auersperg with its lovely winter garden.

There are also a number of modern conference halls in buildings owned by the municipality or by industrial and trade associations. Vienna has its own Congress Office with complete service for 27 different locations with 128 conference halls of varying size, outside the Hofburg centre.

The popularity of Vienna as an international meeting place shows in the fact that congress attendance in the Austrian capital is 20 to 25 per cent higher than in other places. The Austrians make the most of renowned institutions like the Vienna Opera, the Spanish Court Riding School, the Vienna Boys' Choir, Schönbrunn Palace and tours of the Vienna Woods to attract international customers to conferences in their capital.



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Musical tradition that inspires good drinking

by Joyce Rackham

Austrians take great pleasure in wine (they produced about 300 million litres last year), and for the traveller one of the delights is the certainty of sharing it in charming and civilized surroundings.

Vienna alone has several thousand restaurants, inns, cellars, and cafés, and for the visitor some of the most intriguing are the *Kellerlokale*, wine rooms in ancient vaulted cellars, often in historic premises. If you want to escape fellow tourists, look for a *Beisel*—the Austrian counterpart to the British public house—where you can find some of the modest local dishes rarely listed on menus catering for tourists.

If you like music with your wine, go to one of the *Konzert-kaffee Häuser*, or travel to the outskirts of the city to one of the *Heurige* taverns at Grinzing, Sievering or Nussdorf. They are in the small wine region which bears the capital's name.

Where pine branches hang outside the door,

according to a medieval edict, the owner may sell his own young wine of the last vintage (the Austrian answer to Beaujolais nouveau). Grinzing has its own meticulously marked map, with the *Heurige* taverns distinguished from those that are licensed to sell wine from outside the region.

There is a public notice which says: "Drunken driving incurs severe penalties. If you have been to a *Heurige*, and enjoyed the wine, go home by tram, bus or taxi." The No 38 tram is the one to take from the city centre.

Austrians are proud of the *Heurige* tradition and are sure to relate how much Mozart, Beethoven and Schubert in their day enjoyed drinking in the taverns and how it inspired their finest works.

Beethoven is also quoted for his testimonial to Gumpoldskirchner, probably the best known Austrian wine name abroad, which he gave in a letter to a friend during a serious illness, saying that his doctor recommended it as "the best wine for my health". It is only a short train

journey from Vienna to the wine town of Gumpoldskirchner on the eastern slopes of the Vienna Woods, surrounded by high-density vineyards. In the old cellars there you can taste some delectably voluptuous golden wines, whose finest examples may measure well up to 20 years.

Recently I tasted the Gumpoldskirchner. Dr Lueger 1973, made from two characteristic local grapes, Spatrot and Rotgipfler (shipped to Britain by the house of Morandell). It has a lovely bouquet of flowers and honey, and the refreshingly dry finish so characteristic of the better Austrian wines. It costs about £2.20 and is a delicious after-dinner drink.

There are many "wine routes" signposted for motorists, and in some areas they have marked *Wienlesepfade*, or footpaths, through the vineyards. Gumpoldskirchner is among them. Lower Austria, in which it is situated, is the largest region, producing more than 60 per cent of Austria's national output. Its ancient centre is Krems, with its fascinating *Vintners' Museum*.

Not far away is Rohrendorf, where the family firm of Lenz Moser, founded in the eleventh century, has beautiful cellars, and terraced vineyards overlooking the Danube. There the vines stand 4ft tall, like standard rose trees. This is a system of viticulture started by Herr Lenz Moser, which has been adopted throughout the country, has helped to increase production fourfold, and eliminate the danger of ground frost, one of the vine's greatest enemies.

In Britain their best known wine is the amiable, light medium-dry *Schilck*, which costs about £1.35, but it will soon be rivalled by their new version of the rather sweeter, well-rounded *Blue Danube*, an interesting blend of Gewürztraminer and the distinctive indigenous *Gruener Veltliner* grape. From the same area comes the elegant *Schloss Grafenegg* (from Peter Dominic) and from the house of Morandell, the silky, aromatic *Dürnsteiner Schilckberg*.

Connoisseurs in Austria particularly appreciate those produced by the *Gruener Veltliner* grape, and also seek out wines like Moser's *Aper*.

A more glamorous form of serving pork (especially *croustons* and *very light*), when cured and smoked). They may accompany meat dishes or be added to certain soups.

In the hands of an Austrian chef, boiled beef given zest by the addition of several piquant sauces, coffee and chocolate are rich wine sauce, accompanied by noodles and there *Gugelhopf*, the Viennese are many interesting ways equivalent of the Maderia

cake, which is baked in its own special mould. Austria's most famous cake is *Sachertorte*, which is made by nearly every pastry-cook, and should be a parable Viennese coffee. So proud are the Austrians of the reputation of their coffee, that when they mounted a gastronomic festival in London, they imported Viennese water to

alongside such glamorous dishes as *Soufflé Rothschild* and *Salzburger Nockerl*, it is probably at its best when consumed with the incomparable Viennese coffee.

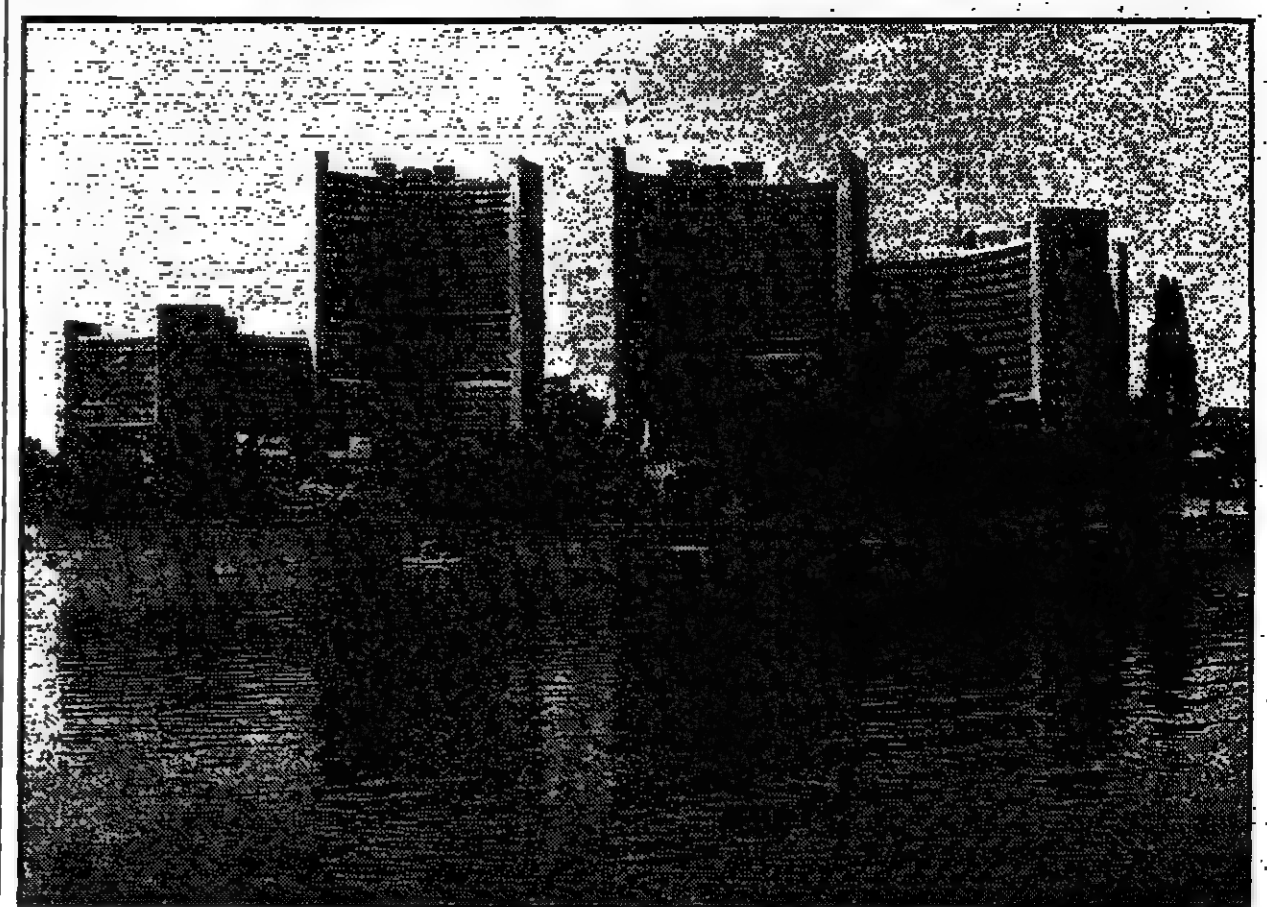
Dishes both varied and subtle

Styria, the third smallest vineyard area, has its vines cultivated on steep, sunny slopes, and produces a wide range of styles from many different grape varieties. New on the market here is the delightful dry Styrian *Goldene Sudlese* (from the Austrian Wine Club at £1.35 a bottle).

Dining out in Austria visitors are often surprised by the variety and subtlety of the dishes available on menus in restaurants at many price levels. In cold weather, one can start with some delicious soups, ranging from good home-made bouillon (often with an egg in it) to the filling liver dumpling soup, and the piquant *Goulaschsuppe*, so rich you can stand a spoon in it, and a meal on its own.

Two Austrian restaurants in central London, the *Kerzenstube* and the *Old Vienna*, both have their own versions of that favourite Austrian hors d'oeuvre, mushrooms deep fried like scampi, served with tartare sauce.

If you see dumplings (Knodel) on an Austrian menu, do not imagine something heavy, made of sausage and dumplings, but a school food or the ponderous German variety. An Austrian restaurateur told me his dumplings are really



United Nations City in Vienna, scheduled to open next year, will house the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency.

United Nations City comes to town

by Pieter Zwart

Next year Austria's promise to the United Nations to provide permanent headquarters for two of its agencies in Vienna should come true. The two agencies are UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization) and IAEA (International Atomic Energy Agency). Some 2,500 United Nations employees will move into three of the tower blocks now being built as part of the United Nations complex in north-west Vienna. The promises were made when UNIDO and IAEA moved into temporary headquarters in the city in 1966 and 1966 respectively.

One big difficulty for the Austrian Government was that the United Nations agencies overestimated their rate of growth. Initially this was said to be 7,000 employees by the time that UN City, as the press dubbed it, would be completed. Through negotiations the Austrians reduced this target to 4,500. But even that was too high a figure, for the IAEA told the Austrians a few years ago that it could fit into one tower block, leaving another tower block with a capacity for 2,000 staff empty. The IAEA withdrew from the block and gave it back to the Austrians, who in turn gave it back to the United Nations.

Some headway has been made in partly filling this block by the redistribution of certain units of the United Nations in Geneva and New York. They are: the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs; the Division on Narcotic Drugs; the International Centre for the Environment; and a branch of the United Nations Information Office. They will bring 270 extra United Nations staff to Vienna.

The Austrian Government has made it clear that it has no wish to undermine Geneva's or New York's position as United Nations centres. On the other hand it favours a policy of decentralization of offices within the United Nations system. It realizes that the main political focus of the organization is in New York, and feels that Geneva should remain important for matters within the economic sphere. But just as the United Nations environment programme unit is established in Nairobi, Vienna would like a functional grouping of units concerned with social affairs, energy, natural resources and technology in the United Nations City.

Vienna sees the building of United Nations City as a concrete contribution to strengthening its role in the international community. Not only is it more effective than investments in arms and defence, but it is also part of Austria's "active neutrality" policy. Its status is enhanced within the international community and at the same time it adds to its own security.

Dr Bruno Kreisky, the Austrian Chancellor, has said: "We do not intend to compete against any other country by offering space for international organizations, but we want to make ourselves useful as an international meeting place. The

existence of United Nations organizations in Vienna will be an additional safeguard of this country's permanent neutrality, sovereignty and peaceful existence in the heart of Europe."

The United Nations buildings, which are also known as the Donau Park complex, the International Headquarters and Conference Centre, Vienna, and the Vienna International Centre, are situated in Donau Park overlooking the Danube river. This was the site for a garden exhibition in the 1960s and provides a rural background to the towering blocks.

Herr Johann Staber, the architect, has been careful to leave a vista by putting the buildings on stilts. The six Y-shaped buildings thus appear to straddle the park area. The offices are easily partitioned, and there is individually-controlled air-conditioning and nearly all the offices have daylight and panoramic views.

There are two conference centres: a round one on several floors with a capacity for 1,600 delegates and a hexagonal one with a capacity for 4,000 delegates in its largest hall. The former is part of the United Nations complex, while the latter is still on the drawing boards and will form the Austrian International Conference Centre when completed in 1982. In addition there is a service block for libraries, restaurants, a computer centre, shops, sports rooms and telephone exchange.

Each floor lifted into place

The Y-shaped glass and aluminium-fronted buildings vary from 120 metres to 54 metres in height and are a feat of engineering skill. The staircase towers at each end and the central cores were erected by slipform method, and with the construction floors they form the skeleton of the buildings.

The prefabricated floors were assembled on the ground and hoisted into place between the staircase towers and the central cores by means of hydraulic lifting. The regular office floors were then fitted in above the construction floors.

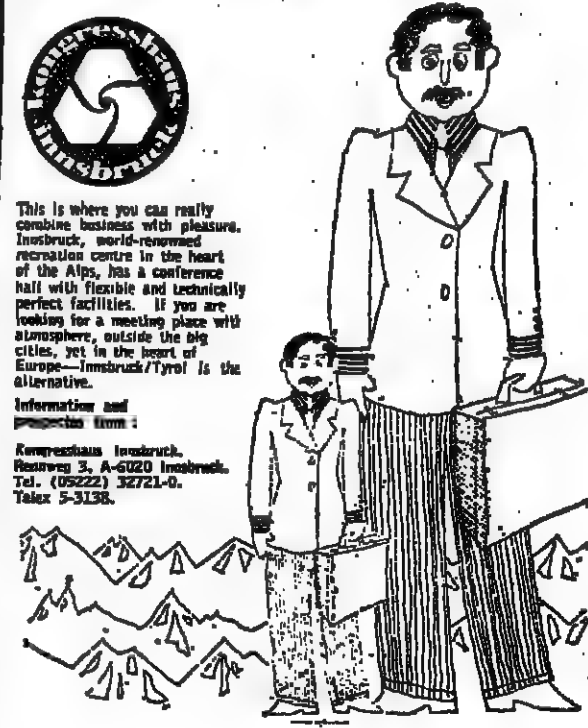
United Nations City will cost about £430m to build. Two thirds of that figure is borne by the Federal Government and one-third by the city of Vienna. The property belongs to the Austrian Republic and is leased to the United Nations at a peppercorn rent of one Austrian Schilling a year. That compares with the high rents for offices in Geneva and New York.

The complex will be linked with new communications to make it easier for the international civil servants to travel to and from it. An underground railway to the centre of Vienna (St. Stephen's Cathedral) is planned for the early 1980s. A new bridge for road and rail is being built to replace the Reichbrücke, which collapsed last year.

In addition there will be a special bus link between

United Nations City and the benefits of living in Vienna's western suburbs. Not only is it a city of culture, but it already has three international schools—the Lycée française, an American international school and an English school. In addition, a new shopping centre has opened near United Nations City. The United Nations employees are being offered substantial tax concessions. What more, the reluctant to move there. Austrians may ask, do they need to be persuaded to Austrian Government with move.

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Twenty years of economic sense in Austria —background for the visiting businessman

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Austrian industry in an Austrian setting—Linz: the Stickstoffwerke A.G.

In 1975 Austria found itself on the brink of the worldwide recession; those responsible for the country's economic policy were faced with exactly the same problems as their counterparts in other western industrialized countries. Many of the latter reacted to the situation with restrictive monetary measures which produced a sharp increase in unemployment whilst leaving the inflationary situation little, if at all, improved. A side-effect of such measures was in many countries a worsening of relations between employers and employees in industry, culminating in strikes and the adoption of radical political attitudes.

Priority: Job security

In spite of warnings voiced by theoretical economists, Austria decided in agreement with the banking system and representatives of both sides of industry to give priority to securing jobs. At the same time, substantial public funds were invested to support the nation's economy.

The success of these measures was noted with great interest by economic experts everywhere. With unemployment running at only 2.4% and despite a 2.5% fall in economic growth, Austria managed, against all forecasts, to reduce the rate of increase in prices of consumer goods from the 1974 level of 9.5% to 8.4% in 1975, while negotiated wages rose 15.1% in the same year. When in 1976 this was followed by a further growth of 4.5% in GNP and a 10% rise in wages, the inflation rate declined by a further percentage point to 7.3%. All this took place without industrial conflict; the amount of time spent in strikes per capita of the Austrian labour force was 1.5 minutes in 1974 and only 1 minute in 1975.

A new institution

In March 1957, a temporary standstill to growth in the country's economy led Austrian economists to conclude that the purely mechanical processes of a classically run national economy were no longer adequate to cope with the problems arising.

The representatives of employers and employees in Austria realized as long as 20 years ago that a stable economic situation could only be created by means of a permanent dialogue between both sides of industry and with a great deal of voluntary self-control. The logical result of this was the setting up of the Commission for Prices and Wages which met for the first time in March 1957 and is almost unique in the world as a means of regulating the conflict of interests between employers and employees.

A neutral forum

The Commission is an entirely voluntary forum in which representatives of both sides of industry are able to put their views objectively to each other on neutral ground with a view to giving both sides a fair hearing. The Commission's own council also draws up analyses of economic policy and prepares recommendations for the government.

The Commission meets regularly in the Federal Chancellery in Vienna under the chairmanship of the Federal Chancellor or Minister for Trade. Apart from officials of the Ministries for Internal Affairs, Trade, Industry and Commerce and of the Ministry for Social Administration, the Commission includes two representatives and one expert from the statutory body representing trade, industry and commerce, the Federal Chamber of Industry and Trade, from the Council of the Chambers of Labour, the

statutory representative of most Austrian employees, and from the Presidential Conference of Chambers of Agriculture, which is the umbrella organization for all chambers of agriculture, the bodies which represent Austrian farmers. The meetings of the Commission are also attended by a similar number of representatives of the Austrian Trades Union Federation. The Commission holds special meetings to discuss matters of economic policy which are then also attended by other Ministers responsible for such matters—particularly the Finance Minister, as also the Governor of the National Bank and the head of the Economic Research Institute.

The power of voluntary action

The Commission did not come into being as the result of a law. It did so in accordance with a decision of the Council of Ministers of 12th March 1957 which merely invited the four associations mentioned to pay particular attention to wage and price trends and to examine the justification for price and wage increases in macroeconomic terms on a joint commission. However, because there is no legal basis for the institution of the Commission, its findings cannot be formulated in a binding manner either directly, i.e. for the associations represented on the Commission, or indirectly, for the members of the associations. Thus any recommendations of the Joint Commission are only to be understood as *Verwendungsempfehlungen* (assents) in the meaning of Article 880 of the Austrian Civil Code.

The only possible form of sanction—although this has never been used to date—is for the Joint Commission to have certain goods and services included in the government schedule of price controls for a maximum period of six months on the basis of an existing law relating to price control.

In practice, the work of the Joint Commission is based on the representative associations submitting applications for a proposed price increase or for the go-ahead for wage or salary negotiations. These are then dealt with by two permanent subcommittees of the Joint Commission. Important decisions taken by the subcommittees are in all cases made known to the full meeting of the Commission. The Commission as a whole also considers questions of fundamental importance, particularly when any change in wages or working conditions might give rise to applications for price rises.

When the Austrian economy was in the process of rapid expansion between 1960 and 1973, it was due to the work of the Joint Commission that wages and prices did not spiral too rapidly. In times of recession, the collaboration achieved between both sides of industry in the framework of the Joint Commission supported government measures to protect jobs, ensuring that funds invested in plant, shrinking production figures did not result in an unreasonable rise in costs and hence in a reduced ability of Austrian industry to compete on world markets dominated by deflation.

Economic brains trust

The enormous progress which the work of the Joint Commission represents lies in the fact that it provides a platform for representatives of both employees and employers to discuss together their various initiatives, without affecting the duty of its members, once outside the forum of the Commission, to continue to defend the interests of their own particular group.



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NO HELP FROM PATRIOTIC FRONT

It is too soon to say that Mr Mugabe and Mr Nkomo have doused the hopes discussed so cheerfully in the House of Commons yesterday after Dr Owen's report on the African negotiations. But their immediate reactions are not encouraging, for they suggest that Dr Owen has entirely failed to move them from the positions they took up at Geneva which largely contributed to the failure of that conference. They now reject, or at least see no relevance in, Anglo-American co-sponsorship of another conference, this time on an independence constitution. They insist that the only Africans who can be parties to it are the representatives of those who fight—that is, themselves—and they reiterate that their business is with Britain alone.

This is not an outright rejection of a conference, but it repeats their old contention—that it is for Britain to agree with them, and then alone, how and when to hand over Rhodesia, after disposing of Mr Smith by means it is not for the Africans to prescribe. If Britain will not (the Africans decline to admit that Britain cannot) the war goes on.

That is not the conference Dr Owen was describing to the House of Commons. He insists that it can only succeed if all the parties are represented, and of the Patriotic Front leaders he said "I attach immense importance to their cooperation. We want to call a conference. This was one of the reasons why I not only saw them early on in my

mission, but went to see all the frontline presidents, including... President Machel in Mozambique and President Neto in Angola." Presumably he is not unprepared for this initial unhelpfulness. But evidently the first of the preparatory discussions that he envisages must be to adopt a new attitude, with the help of the presidents now meeting in Luanda to discuss intensification of the war.

The most obvious argument to put to them is that their intransigence may indeed be more cooperative now they see Mr Mugabe and Mr Nkomo being difficult, if only as a matter of tactics. This is foreshadowed by Mr Vorster's comment that if Dr Owen fails it will not be the fault of the white Rhodesians. Under Dr Owen's plans, Mr Smith loses nothing by participating in the preparatory talks, right up to and even into the conference if Dr Owen can stage it, and he may feel he gains quite a lot.

One such gain is a measure of recognition—a British mission of sorts in Salisbury, perhaps a Rhodesian one in London, an excellent venue for promoting the idea that the Rhodesians are being reasonable, and the idea that it is the Patriotic Front—manipulated of course by the objectors—who are not. Mr Smith has some success with this line in Geneva. He can do all this and yet, as Dr Owen indicated, remain with a veto until

he sees not only the shape of the independence constitution but also of the caretaker regime. Until he resigns nothing happens.

The other advantage of negotiating is to build up credit with Mr Vorster and more especially, as Mr Smith certainly hopes, with President Carter. If Messrs Nkomo and Mugabe can be shown to wreck a peaceful settlement under the Owen plan for communist reasons, his whole approach to politics suggests that he would hope to pin some moral obligation, as well as diplomatic necessity, on President Carter to support him in the next phase.

Dr Owen made a good case for his plan to abandon the abortive negotiations on the Kissinger plan for the interim stage and move to the creation of an independence constitution for Zimbabwe which would so commend itself by its safeguards for the minorities, and freedom for the majority, that the "interim" arrangements would be relatively easy. But it is much easier to draw up such a constitution on paper than to persuade the whites that the blacks would not tear it up immediately after independence, or the blacks that the whites would not tear it up before vesting day. Dr Owen frankly conceded the wall of suspicion which talks and papers will hardly pierce. Yet he was right to say that he had to attempt it. If nothing comes out of the conference, other possibilities may emerge, as his tour and effort to change the atmosphere came out of Geneva.

CONFUSED AND FAR FROM REASSURING

Spring manoeuvres among trade unionists over the next round of pay restraint are by nature complex and even roundabout. Yesterday the Scottish TUC narrowly defeated a resolution by the coal miners that would have rejected any further limitation of free collective bargaining. It would be wrong to hail the result as evidence of a last-minute revulsion by the Labour movement. To a great extent it simply reflects the reluctance of many delegates to commit themselves only a short time before the national conferences of their unions meet and before they know exactly what terms for another phase may finally be on offer. The close vote tends to confirm that the spirit of glum acquiescence that made two years of rigid wage controls possible no longer prevails.

But it is fair to qualify even that conclusion from a vote which had so much of the nature of a holding statement. The STUC is a body which leans further to the left than the British TUC. Until last year, when it rejected a motion from the NUM similar to yesterday's (while simultaneously thumbing its nose at Healey's first offer of conditional tax cuts), it had been staunchly opposed to the principle of wage restraint. The result shows that many unions have reservations, at least, about the complete rejection of a third phase.

The confusion of debate within

the movement at this stage has been amply illustrated this week by the pronouncements of Mr Jack Jones. His speech on Sunday seemed at once a reaffirmation of the need for a continued understanding with the Government and a rejection of every practical means of achieving it. Even the holder of his powerful office has to have some regard to the opinions of his followers, and no doubt part of what he said was meant to show them that he understood their reservations and did not mean to drive a feeble bargain. He probably did not appreciate the effect that his words would have elsewhere (in the event the Scottish delegation of the TGWU decided to support the miners anyway, against his advice).

In the first two phases of incomes restraint, the influence of Mr Jones has been crucial. The forms of control that he has endorsed have been clear-cut, almost crude. They have worked in great measure because of that. If Mr Jones is becoming subtle, it is an ominous sign for the future of restraint. Phases one and two happened to serve the interests of his own union well; a new formula giving scope for repairing some of the consequential anomalies would inevitably serve their interests less well and be less amenable to his methods of orientation and promotion.

A flexible pay policy, with a norm that will inevitably stand as a mark for all to aim at and

with plenty of excuses provided for going beyond it, might actually disguise the real forces limiting the general growth of earnings and even encourage inflationary claims. Mr Jones seems conclusively to have dashed hopes that the TUC might take a share in determining differentials in the same way as it has accomplished the simpler task of persuading recalcitrant unions to respect the existing norms. By implication, he was also discouraging the possibility of local "kitty bargaining".

In fact the main function that Mr Jones seems to see for the TUC, if there is a new agreement with the Government, is one that would be equally important whether there was a formal agreement or not. The leaders of the movement would take care to keep constantly before their followers the facts of inflation and unemployment and try to induce a mood of sobriety. That is the least that can be expected of them. But Mr Jones even felt it necessary to abandon this attitude himself so as to be seen striking a hard bargain. He presented the Government with a whole list of demands, from a price freeze to early retirement and a cut in petrol tax. It is paradoxical and discouraging to see him of all people failing to understand how such a parade of fantasies must contribute to fostering the dangerous sense of inequality among trade unionists that he so rightly fears.

cherity performances of works by Handel during spring and summer this year. I understand that still has to be achieved and the Friends need all the support they can get.

Yours faithfully,
JONATHAN BALKIND, Secretary,
The Friends of Christ Church
Spitalfields.

41 Chalcot Road,
NW1.

Pelléas et Mélisande

From Mr Rollo Myers:

Sir, I have just read with the greatest pleasure and interest Mr William Mann's report on the new production of *Pelléas et Mélisande* at the Paris Opera (March 24). May I, however, be allowed to make one correction? Mr Mann is not correct in stating that Debussy "completed his opera in 1895". In point of fact, the *Pelléas* we know today was only begun in that year after Debussy had destroyed the original draft, which he considered too Wagnerian. In a letter to his friend Ernest Chausson he admitted that he was "still haunted by the Wizard of Bayreuth and the phantom of old Klingsor... And so I tore it all up and am now seeking a more personal idiom ('une petite chimie de phrases plus personnelles') and am trying to be as much Pelléas as Mélisande..."

And he was still working on his opera right up to the year 1902 when it had its notorious première at the Paris Opéra-Comique.

Yours faithfully,
ROLLO MYERS,
Résidences de Villeneuve "A",
Place du Grand-Jardin,
06140 Vence,
France.

Pensions and grants

From Mrs J. Haley:

Sir, I note that students are to receive grants of £1,000 per annum to cover their costs for 40 weeks, thus receiving £25 a week. A retired married couple receive a pension of £24.50 per week. Evidently the Government believes that two can live even more cheaply than one. Should not any evidence on which it grounds this belief be made public? Yours faithfully,
JANETTA HALEY,
88 Blandford Road,
Whitley Wood,
Reading,
Berkshire.
April 5.

Far East trade with Britain

From Mr R. S. Milward

Sir, I have not yet seen the full text of what Mr Dell said at the Foreign Correspondents Club in Tokyo yesterday. According to *The Times* he castigated Japan for not importing manufactured products on the same scale as other industrial nations, but made no acknowledgment of the limitations imposed by the cost of fuels and raw materials—some two-thirds of Japan's export earnings. Mr Dell apparently included Japan's complex distribution system as part of Japan's "discrimination" against imports, while failing to recognise that it must take some decades for the Japanese to streamline a system whose complexities have developed over centuries.

He listed "certain barriers"—tariffs on confectionery and the excise duty on Scotch whisky—but failed to say that Japan now has as few barriers to imports and as low tariffs as this country, and is willing to negotiate in the Gatt on those that remain. He seemed to imply that these barriers are a significant factor in the size of Britain's trade deficit with Japan. They are in fact of minor importance.

More seriously, his reportedly "searing public attack" fails to recognize or build on the wishes of the Japanese Government, administration and business world to be as cooperative as they reasonably can towards Britain's need for increased exports, subject only to their unwillingness, in a free and democratic country, to dictate to the consumer what he shall buy.

Many British firms and industries are already working to increase their exports to Japan. The Japanese automobile, electronic and other industries on their side are showing considerable understanding in discussion with their British counterparts and restraint in the tempo of their exports. Healthy trade between the two countries can be developed only by further efforts and good will shown by the industries on both sides. Today's press reports seem to ignore this essential matter and to concentrate on the minor irritants.

The Japanese Chamber in the United Kingdom cooperates fully with the Export-Import Unit of the BOTB in the "Japan Task Force", in efforts to promote further exports to Japan. It would be helpful if public speeches and press reports would try to build on the present good will—at least in the eyes of the Japanese—rather than destroy it through unbalanced and seemingly ill-informed onslaughts. Such reports as those appearing today are profoundly discouraging to those influential Japanese who have been cooperating generously with Mr Dell's own Department in trying to improve the balance of Anglo-Japanese trade.

Yours faithfully,
R. S. MILWARD,
General Manager, Japanese Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the United Kingdom,
c/o Mitsubishi Corporation,
Bow Bells House,
Broad Street, EC4.
April 19.

From Mr Roderick MacFarquhar, MP for Belper (Labour), and Mr John Roper, MP for Farnworth (Labour and Co-operative):

Sir, Your first leader on April 19 rightly drew attention to the fact that in Britain we study China more than Japan despite having considerable trade links with the latter. One reason for this disparity, apart from the political factors indicated in the leader, is that in the 1960s the Americans decided that it would be valuable to themselves if there were a larger "China-watching" community in Europe whose viewpoints would balance those of American Sinologists. Consequently they invested considerable funds in developing European Sinological studies.

If Japanese studies in Europe are also to expand, a similar outside effort will be required, this time from Japan. If Japanese businessmen sincerely wish for better understanding of their country in Europe then they should consider allocating funds for the development of Japanese studies in Britain, France and Germany particularly as they have done in the past 10 years in the United States. The tension over trade between the EEC and Japan, which has recently been dramatically demonstrated by our Trade Secretary's speech in Tokyo, underlines the urgency of the task.

Yours sincerely,
RODERICK MACFARQUHAR,
JOHN ROPER,
House of Commons,
April 20.

A disease of money

From Professor Lord Kaldor, FBA

Sir, Your leading article on "A Disease of Money" (April 7) concludes by saying that a reduction in the excess money supply of 9.8 per cent in 1974 was followed in 1976 by a 7.7 per cent reduction in the inflation rate of retail prices and that "this prediction of a major change in the rate of inflation before any agreement on incomes policy".

Are the words italicized by me in the above quotation intended to convey your view that the agreement on incomes policy between the Government and the TUC in the summer of 1975 played no role in bringing about the major change in trend in the rate of inflation in 1976, since the latter would have happened in any case on account of the reduction in the rate of growth of M3 (though not in other measures of the "money supply") which occurred in 1974? Or is it intended to convey your view that the reduction in the rate of growth of M3 in 1974 would have been no agreement on incomes policy in the summer of 1975? Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS KALDOR,
rue St Joseph,
La Garde-Freinet,
Var,
France.
April 11.

✉ The former.

Electors' influence on EEC policy

From Mr David Bagnall

Sir, The next major phase of the development of the enlarged European Economic Community will be concerned with the question of the effective coordination of economic and, specifically, budgetary policy. The members states, which must ultimately involve the creation of machinery for supra-national budgetary direction. The creation of such machinery is bound to exceed the powers of the Council of Ministers and the Commission, and, if the basic democratic principle of no taxation without representation is to be effectively preserved within the Community, the new directly elected European Assembly must be an effective counter-weight to these powers.

It is clear, therefore, that if the EEC is to develop and increase its unity and cohesion along democratic lines, the new Assembly must become more representative and acquire more power: for it will be the only forum in which citizens of the Community will be able to exercise a direct influence on the Community's policies in their formation stage.

In recent years the present European Parliament has obtained some increased control over Community expenditure; however, if unity and cohesion are to develop along democratic lines in the very sensitive area of the effective coordination of economic and budgetary policy, the new Assembly should seek to obtain for itself at the earliest possible stage the right to review all the proposals of the European Commission, and not only those which have budgetary implications, when they are still in draft form and before they are submitted to the Council of Ministers.

Nobody can forecast the time scale of events in the next phase of EEC development, but the first five-year period of the new Assembly is likely to see some of the important preliminary discussions and moves in the next stage of both the economic and political evolution of the Community, which could have far-reaching effects on the future economic and political structure of Europe.

The mission on which our representatives at this new Assembly will embark on in May or June 1978 is of too great long-term importance to be left to chance parties and the distortions of the first, post-electoral system. It seems only common sense that from the very start all our members should be elected by a method of proportional representation, so that there is a real balance of national attitudes than is thrown up by the present system.

Yugoslav socialism

From Sir Fitzroy Maclean

Sir, I can't help feeling that Mr Bernard Levin (April 13), however knowledgeable about Spain, is not very well informed about Yugoslavia. President Tito, as I can well testify, has steadily been one of most of us and has never shown him any particular fear of death or reluctance to face the inevitable. Of recent years I have always found him more than ready, when the question came up, to discuss the perfectly sensible arrangements that have been made in Yugoslavia for an orderly succession when he dies, whether this be sooner or later. Meanwhile he continues to enjoy life and plays an active and useful, but far from sinister, part in the government of his country and the conduct of its foreign policy.

Nor in endorsing Yugoslavia with its present form of government can Tito really be said to have "ignored" the deepest truths of human reality. His government came into being in the course of a bitter, savage and hard fought war against an utterly ruthless aggressor. (There was I can assure your readers, nothing unreal about that.) During the 25 years following Tito's extremely realistic break with Moscow, the system has been continually modified, invariably with the object of making it work better. As Tito said to me recently, "We have tried to be dogmaticists; we try to see things as they are."

The result has been a highly decentralized form of federal government (which takes almost excessive account of the very real problem of the nationalities) and an economic

The forthcoming debates in Parliament will be watched with the greatest interest by our European colleagues, who will find it difficult to understand the ultimate logic of all the arguments about the problems of an immediate change in our present system, when the White Paper itself proposes that, in the case of Northern Ireland, direct elections there should be conducted by a system of proportional representation. It is to be hoped that such an issue will not be decided on grounds of short term political expediency, because at the end of the day it is perhaps worth while to spend a few minutes of time in 1963 to the question of why we desired our entry into Europe: "It is because of the Parliamentary and democratic traditions of the English. Besides them we are not democrats. We are republicans, sometimes revolutionaries, but never as essentially and deeply democratic as them."

Yours faithfully,
DAVID BAGNALL,
Deputy Chairman, Conservative, Commonwealth and Overseas Council,
East Worthing House,
Alton,
Hampshire.
April 19.

From Mr Christopher Chataway

Sir, I can only conclude that George Hutchinson must be yet another convert to proportional representation. I have known him well to believe that he could be serious in advancing last Saturday (April 16) such a caricature of a case against electoral reform. It would, he says, be "an unfamiliar—even alien—system" calculated to confuse and disturb the electorate.

More calculated to confuse and disturb may one ask than the present arrangements, which require a Labour government with the support of 29 per cent of the electorate to spend its first two years implementing destructive socialist measures that are wanted by only an activist fraction even of that 29 per cent? More calculated to confuse and disturb than the existing political system, which rules out all continuity and forward planning?

And when it comes to European elections can there be a single serious argument for the first past the post system, when it must ensure that any government party facing the normal mid-term unpopularity will finish up almost unrecognisable in Europe? Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER CHATAWAY,
40 Addison Road, W14,
April 19.

system closely approximating to a market economy and designed to encourage enterprise and initiative and make full use of the profit motive (realities all too often ignored by our own rulers). Finally, in a still largely agricultural country to peasants are given every encouragement to make a good living off the land, 80 per cent of which is privately owned. Once again, speaking as a farmer, Yugoslav agricultural policy seems to me as realistic as that of most governments.

Like most political systems, the Yugoslav system is open to criticism from a number of points of view. The Russians attack it as highly heretical from a Marxist-Leninist point of view. In the West it is naturally criticised as a one-party system. By some it might be said to be unduly pragmatic. But, in the circumstances prevailing in Eastern Europe and in the world today, I would certainly not have called it unrealistic.

As regards its permanence or impermanence, Mr Levin would presumably like to see it overturned. In this he will find he has some very enthusiastic allies. Whether they will be to his regret or not, I am not sure. For my own part I would sooner see the Yugoslavs left to maintain their independence as best they can and work things out for themselves in a way which to my mind takes the fullest possible account of the realities of their exposed and precarious position.

Yours faithfully,
FITZROY MACLEAN,
Strachur House,
Argyll,
April 18.

Royal titles

From Mr E. D. G. Robinson

Sir, The Duke of Gloucester is Lord Nicholas Windsor. He does not use his father's third title of Baron Downpatrick. Similarly a second son of the Duke of Gloucester would be known as Lord Windsor, not Baron Culloden. In fact the title Baron Culloden is likely to come into use only if the Duke of Gloucester's first son, the Earl of Ulster, eventually has a son. The Duke's lifetime. That grandson would be known as Baron Culloden.

This use of subordinate titles is in effect, an anticipation of eventual inheritance. Obviously a second son is not in that position.

Yours faithfully,
E. D. G. ROBINSON,
25 Park Road,
Salford,
April 17.

Christian decline

From Mr Edward Oliver

Sir, Bill McSweeney (April 16), having criticized five views of the reason for Christian decline, produces a sixth of his own which is equally questionable. It belongs to the familiar school of thought which in its extreme form is represented today by Archbishop LeFebvre and his French friends. The error of Christianity is due to the failure of Christians to preserve their religion untouched: in Mr McSweeney's words they have "yielded on the fundamental theological issues that legitimated their existence".

This view is commonly based on two fallacies. In the first place, the principle of growth, which Jesus emphasized in metaphors he used about the Kingdom of God, is implicitly denied. The hidden but real continuity between the seed buried

Work, stress, and death

From Dr Elizabeth S. B. Wilson

Sir, Today's edition (April 18) of *The Times* carries a thoughtful and detailed obituary of my husband, Professor Graham Wilson. However, there is one important point with which I must take issue. He died of cancer of the stomach which had probably been present for a long time before it was discovered nine months ago. There is absolutely no scientific evidence that stress, hard work or travelling have any connexion whatever with this condition and very little that they are a relevant factor in cardiovascular or any other disease.

There has been a great deal of emphasis in the media recently about the hypothetically adverse effects of so-called "overwork". My husband, a medical scientist, felt strongly that this supposition had no basis in fact and would have been most indignant if he had known that the possibility had been raised in his own obituary.

Stress is the loosely applied term which is supposed to provide the causal relationship. However, there is far more stress in coming home at five o'clock to a nagging wife and rebellious children than in completing 14 hours of worthwhile and largely enjoyable work even if one's safe arrival home does depend on the vagaries of the Shuttle. People who work hard do so because they want to—some live long like Churchill and some die before their time as did my husband, but to believe that one can be killed by overwork is as scientifically baseless as to associate the common cold with wet feet.

Yours faithfully,
ELIZABETH S. B. WILSON,
11 Westbourne Gardens,
Gloucester.

Local broadcasting

From Mrs Cora A. M. Heptonstall

Sir, Your article on the future of local broadcasting (April 15) makes a welcome and helpful comment on what you describe as the "negative argument" for the BBC retention of local radio stations, but one feels that the positive argument could be extended.

In Humberside the relationship between local radio and the BBC is seen as of two-way benefit: the BBC not only using local radio, but local radio deriving advantages from BBC expertise. Furthermore, local radio gives consumers a choice and protects minority interests. The "grass-roots" community interest which local radio is able to foster is invaluable and it is felt that commercial radio could not attend to community needs in the same way. Many sparsely populated areas in this part of the country are served by local radio, and one doubts whether there would be enough advertising material to enable such areas to be served even by local radio exclusively commercial.

Lastly, in the light of the minuscule proportion of the licence fee which is paid for local radio—a family paying just over a penny a week between them—one might infer that the service gives value for money. For these reasons one would hope to see local radio retained under the BBC and more over extended so that less use is made of national programmes.

Yours faithfully,
CORA A. M. HEPTONSTALL,
Chairman,
Humberside Local Radio Council,
9 Chapel Street,
Kingston upon Hull.

Elderly travellers

From Lady Briggs

Sir, I was interested to read Lord Clark's letter (April 15) concerning the problems of the elderly traveller. I am one of the over 75s who frequently use British Rail, and often find myself at a London terminus, Cambridge, and occasionally Oxford stations, with luggage to transport. Since, and here I agree with Lord Clark, one expects no help from British Rail, I have adopted various techniques for myself, so that I can arrive at a terminus undisturbed. I have a large suitcase on wheels (which I draw along on an attached sort of dog lead. It follows me down the longest platform to the luggage van, where I leave it, and where I never fail to attract attention by its performance. On my back I have a feather-weight rucksack, heavily filled, so that one hand is free to clutch rail, banister or other support to avoid that nightmarish fall of the elderly, the fall.

For the initial moves of getting the suitcase out of the train, and up and down stairs, I rely with confidence upon the British public. Some men invariably appear, and does the job. Here, obviously, Oxbridge undergraduates (some of whom seem to be always in transit) can be relied upon. True, one can be pushed aside in getting a taxi, but I have on record that at a London terminus, when two middle aged men bear me to it, the taxi driver said firmly: "I'm taking the lady—she can't run as fast."

So my age group should not be discouraged. Even British Rail itself makes spasmodic efforts. There are half-price tickets for us all. There are also indications of concern, and even, here and there, achievement. As my own nearest station, Ipswich, it is not unknown for old people and their luggage to be taken in the lift for goods freight to avoid a bridge and staircase, the solitary porter has refused tips from kind, and any railway official will help. The situation, I am glad to say, is not everywhere "a source of shame to railwaymen and their colleagues", and need not be any worse with thought and imagination. Yours faithfully,
ALICE BRAGG,
Queyways,
Waldringfield,
Suffolk.

Amenity rubbish

From Mrs Frances M. Pelling

Sir, Why not "TRASH"? It is short, if not sweet, truly English, and economical of paint! Yours truly,
FRANCES M. PELLING,
The Anchorage,
Epping Road,
Royston.

Paw-paw cure

From Mr John Sibby

Sir, It is interesting to learn from Mr Parker (letter April 18) that maggots were used by "hard-pressed doctors" to clear up wounds in the First World War. These little creatures have pretty steadily accompanied British war efforts, whether deliberately encouraged or not, being reported at the siege of Cartagena, 1741, by Smollett, in chapter XXXIII of *Roderick Random*.

They were certainly in evidence in the Assam hospitals after the Burma evacuation of 1942, and certainly of psychologically therapeutic value; we used to run races with our dumb friends. Yours truly,
JOHN SIBBY,
8 Halesowen Road,
Balsall Heath,
West Midlands.
April 18.

100 years' immunity

From Mr Colin Holmes

Sir, I sympathize with C. C. Aronfeld (April 16) in his attempt to read the government file on his German author—I believe he is referring to Peter Aldag, whose *Dus Judentum in England* was published in 1943. But he is mistaken in his assumption that after 30 years Britons go unprotected by the 1958 Public Records Act. If, for instance, he wanted to consult the internment files of British Fascism my experience would suggest that his request could be refused under Section 5(1) of the 1958 Act. Such papers as well as the Aldag file are regarded as exceptionally sensitive and are therefore restricted. In addition, more serious aspect relating to such files which should be highlighted. Home Office records of the kind referred to here, which are not yet open to public inspection, may nevertheless be made available exceptionally to historians and others who require them for scholarly research. Each application in this category is considered on its merits by the Home Office, who have to be satisfied that the person or institution directing the research is of academic or scientific standing and that the aims and objects of the research are of such value as to merit support. In other words, the restrictions, referred to earlier, can be waived.

In my own case I was allowed to read the file on the 1911 Sidney



COURT CIRCULAR

WINDSOR CASTLE

April 20: The Prime Minister and Mrs. Callaghan, His Excellency the High Commissioner for the Gambia and Mrs. Senegal, Sir Paul and Lady Reddy, Sir Richard and Lady Dobson, Miss Rosemary Murray and the Reverend Dr. Colin and Mrs. Morris have left the Castle.

The Queen, Colonel-in-Chief, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, this morning at Windsor Palace presented new Colours to the 1st Battalion, Scots Guards.

Having been received upon arrival by the Colonel of the Regiment (The Duke of Kent) and the Regimental Lieutenant-Colonel (Colonel M. P. de Klee), Her Majesty was received with a Royal Salute.

The Duchess of Kent was also present. The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, this morning at Windsor Palace presented new Colours to the 1st Battalion, Scots Guards.

After the presentation, The Queen was graciously pleased to address the Battalion and the Commanding Officer (Lieutenant-Colonel M. P. de Klee) replied.

Lady Abel Smith, Lieutenant-Colonel of the Right Hon. Sir Martin Charteris and Lieutenant-Colonel Blair Stewart-Wilson were in attendance.

The Queen this afternoon drove to Hyde Park and, having been received by the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Department of the Environment (the Baroness Birk), planted a tree to mark Her Majesty's Silver Jubilee.

Lady Abel Smith, Lieutenant-Colonel of the Right Hon. Sir Martin Charteris and Major Robert Casanova were in attendance.

The Duke of York, President of the Royal Yachting Association, this afternoon took the Chair at the Association's Annual General Meeting at the Terra Hotel.

Lieutenant-Commander Anthony Blackburn, RN, was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
April 20: The Duke of Gloucester was present at a Reception of the Family Welfare Association at the Banqueting Hall, Whitehall this evening.

Lieutenant-Colonel Simon Brand was in attendance.

The Queen celebrates her birthday today.
Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother has become patron of the East Grinstead Research Trust, Blood Laboratories.

A service of dedication of the memorial tablet to Sir Charles Wheeler, President of the Royal Academy, 1956-58, will be held in the Crypt at St Paul's Cathedral on Tuesday, May 10 at noon.

Birthdays today
Lord Bessing, 64; Sir Aubrey Burke, 73; Mr Thomas Burns, 71; the Earl of Derby, 59; Professor Lawrence Cowling, 59; Sir Malcolm Rendel, 72; Air Marshal Sir John Hunter, 60; Sir Geoffrey Remden, 84; the Rev Professor S. J. Roberts, 71.

Today's engagements
The Duke of Kent attends meeting at Institution of Electrical Engineers to receive certificate of honorary fellowship, 5.25.

The Duchess of Kent attends dedication of HMS Kent, Portsmouth Naval Base, 11.

Wick: Choirs of the West End meet Remembrance underground, 7.30.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr B. J. Barker and Miss A. J. Rafferty
The engagement is announced between Brian, eldest son of Mr and Mrs W. E. Barker, of Virginia Water, Surrey, and Anne, daughter of Mr B. J. Rafferty, of Wellington, Shropshire.

Mr N. S. Gallop and Miss J. F. Colville
The engagement is announced between Nicholas, eldest son of Mr and Mrs S. R. Gallop, of 5 Court Lane, Garden, London, SE21, and Julia, eldest daughter of Major and Mrs R. M. Colville, of Church Corner House, Michelmarsh, Romsey, Hampshire.

Mr P. W. Henderson and Miss R. M. Murphy
The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Mr and Mrs G. F. Henderson, of Hove, Sussex, and Rosalind, daughter of Mr and Mrs L. F. Murphy, of Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire.

Mr P. S. Panchaud and Miss A. K. McLennan
The engagement is announced between Paul, son of Mr G. S. Panchaud and the late Mrs A. S. Panchaud, of La Taberniere, Lausanne, Switzerland, and Alison, daughter of Dr and Mrs A. F. McLennan, of Dale Brow Chase, Prestbury, Cheshire.

Mr M. C. Smedley and Miss J. C. Beach
The engagement is announced between Michael, only son of Mr and Mrs Arthur Smedley, of Westfield, Reading, and Jane, daughter of Dr and Mrs David Rasch, of Heale House, Woodford, Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Mr P. E. Williams and Miss S. J. C. Wellspring
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Mr C. A. Burdett and Miss C. von Kersell

The engagement is announced between Charles, son of Mr C. H. Burdett, of Campden Hill Road, London, and Christine, daughter of Mr and Mrs Jost von Kersell, of Madrid, Spain.

Mr M. W. Cooper-Mitchell and Miss E. Blackburn
The engagement is announced between Michael, son of the late Mr O. W. Cooper-Mitchell and of Mrs R. Cooper-Mitchell, of Leigh-on-Sea, Essex, and Elizabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs P. D. Blackburn, of Southgate, London.

Mr W. A. Hayward and Miss C. J. Tidball
The engagement is announced between William Alfred, son of Mr and Mrs Hewitt Hayward, of Langley, British Columbia, Canada, and Cynthia Jane, daughter of Mr and Mrs George M. Tidball, also of Langley, British Columbia, Canada. The marriage will take place on Saturday, May 28, at St Anthony's Catholic Church, West Vancouver. A reception will be held afterwards at Boswell's.

Dr J. M. N. Laidlaw and Miss E. E. Byatt
The engagement is announced between John, son of Dr and Mrs E. V. Laidlaw, of Rectory Cottage, Redford, Nottinghamshire, and Heather, daughter of Major and Mrs P. H. Byatt, of Pippin Cottage, Lower Brilles, Oxford.

Mr S. Watts and Miss E. Stewart-Wallace
The engagement is announced between Simon, elder son of the late Lieutenant-Colonel P. A. Watts, Royal Signals, and of Mrs Watts, of 111 Embury Lane, Essex, and Elizabeth, daughter of Dr and Mrs Arthur Stewart-Wallace, of The Moot House, Ditchling, Sussex.

Mr S. Wilson and Miss J. L. Terry
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The Queen presenting new colours to the 1st Battalion, Scots Guards, of which she is Colonel-in-Chief, at Buckingham Palace yesterday.

Royal Mr B. W. Downham, vice-president, was in the chair.

Dinners

Anchovies
The monthly dinner of the Anchovies was held last night at the Café Royal under the presidency of Mr J. Uryndart. The principal guest was Admiral Sir Ian Hamilton, Commander, Royal College of Defence Studies.

Royal Society of Medicine
The President of the Section of Comparative Medicine of the Royal Society of Medicine, Professor Patricia Scott, accompanied by Dr Geoffrey Scott, president of the High Commission for Trinidad and Tobago and Mrs Skolman.

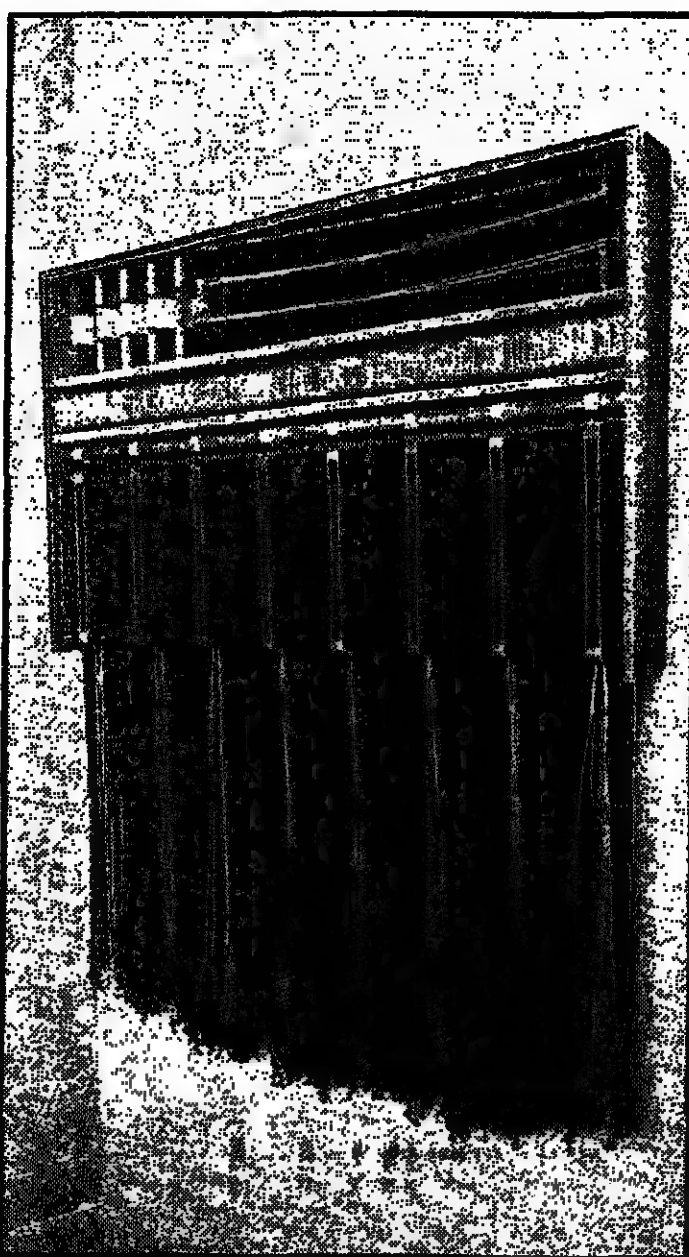
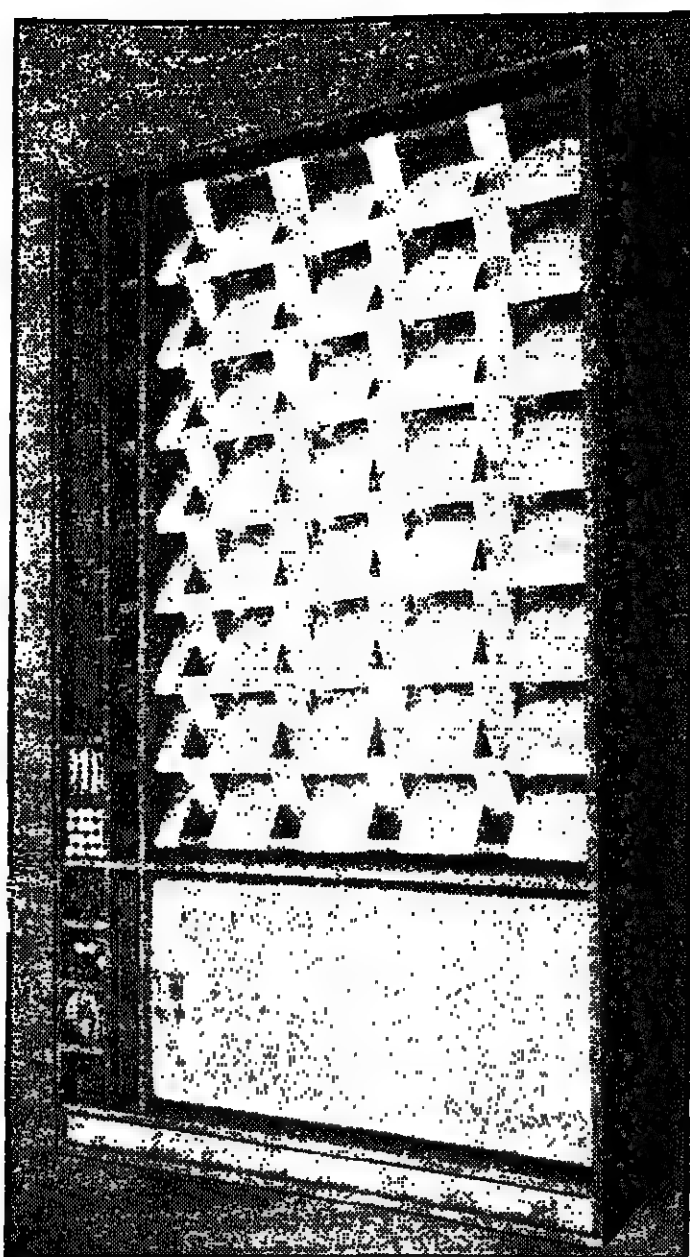
Anglo-American Sporting Club
The Anglo-American Sporting Club held a boxing dinner evening last night at the Ritz Hotel, Manchester, in honour of the Lancashire County Rugby Union team.

Rotary Club of London
The Lord Mayor of Westminster was guest of honour yesterday at a luncheon held by the Rotary Club of London at the Café

Rotary Club of London
The Lord Mayor of Westminster was guest of honour yesterday at a lun

Fashion

by Prudence Glynn

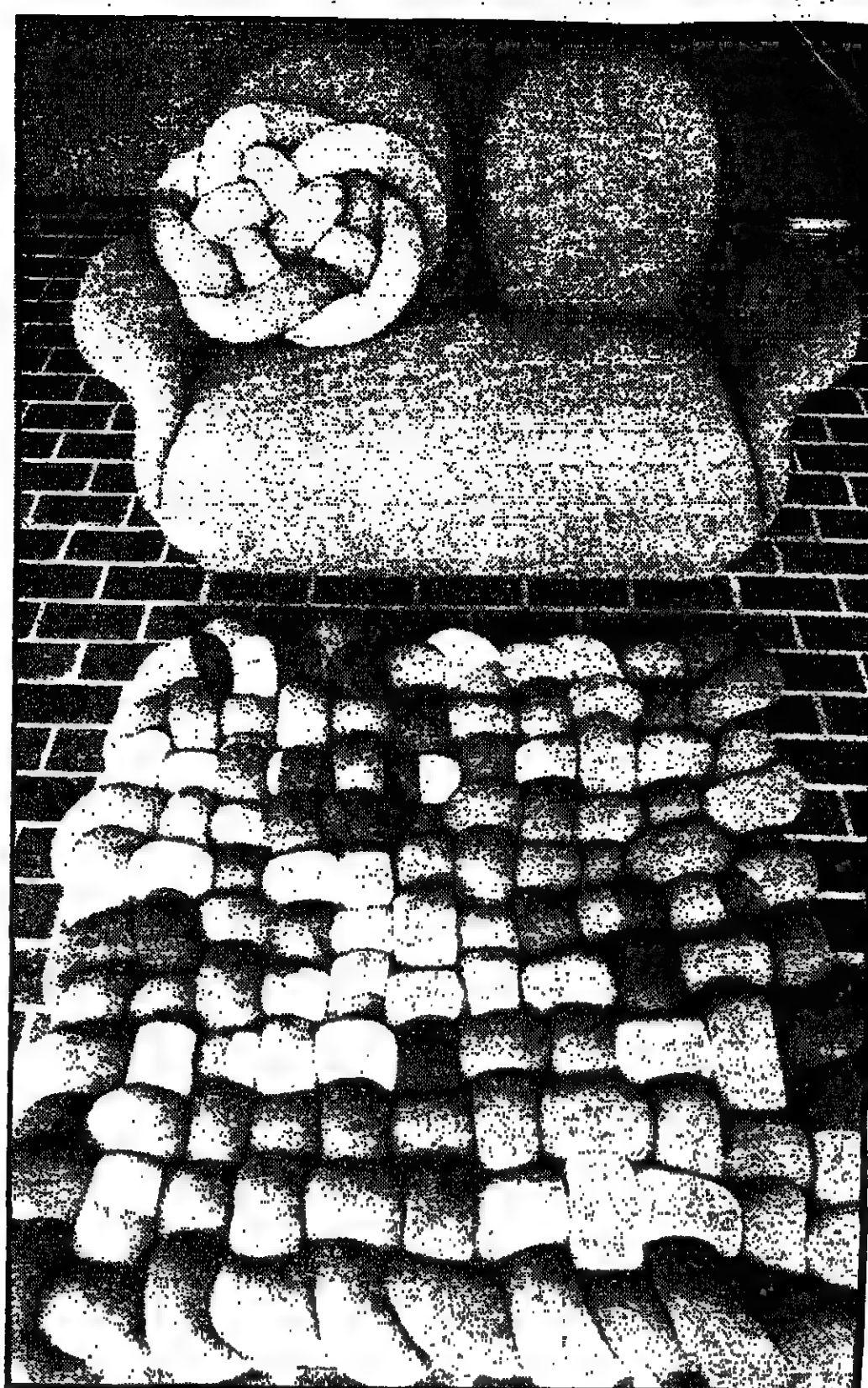


One of the greatest charms of life is coincidence. When I returned to London from the west country and reporting on John Makepeace's new venture at lovely Parnham House it was to find a note from Paul Nicholls on my desk. Paul Nicholls I wrote about a year ago when I described a visit to Brympton d'Evercy at Yeovil, Somerset. Mr Nicholls is now exhibiting his original wood and string wall-hangings at the Bampton Arts Centre near Witney in Oxfordshire.

The examples illustrated here are among his most attractive. If you miss the exhibitions, his address is The Cottage, Broadwell, Lechlade, Glos. Also exhibiting at this time is Ann Sutton, Mrs John Makepeace, at the elegant galleries of Dodson Bull Interiors Ltd, in the Barbican Trade Centre. Paul Nicholls was once a student of Ann Sutton, so the coincidence comes a full circle.

Right: Ann Sutton's snakey rug, and knot cushion, in many coloured wool knit. The sofa is by Pierre Paulin.

Left: Paul Nicholls's string and wool sculptures for the wall.



Photograph by Brian Harris

If the shoe fits, wear it

The other day I went to buy a pair of shoes from a smaller chain retailer which I have always liked for high style, reasonable price and comfortable fit. I selected their 4 1/2 inch heeled peep-toe shape of black patent-leather appearance, got my right size, large, for I had at that stage not realized that the dimensions of my feet might reflect adversely on the proportions of other of my physical charms, and within 10 minutes of wearing said shoes down Oxford Street I had three bloody lacerations and a flying start to a lotus right foot.

The lotus foot, in case you did not know, involved among other deformations the turning under of the four lesser toes. Snatching off my new purchase in the haven of a taxi, I read inside their gleaming and seductive exterior the words which I have come to dread on behalf of my feet. "Made in England". Luckily, the same man who has incalculated, or more accurately proposed, my potential shame about the size of my feet is now on hand, or rather on paper, to explain why British shoes are so crippling. To William A. Rossi, author of *The Sex Life of the Foot and Shoe*, published today by Routledge, price £4.75, I am indebted for the observation that "shoes reflect the psycho-sexual characteristics of the wearer: for example the shoes that sell best in England, Scotland, Ireland, Scandinavia and Russia he regards as cold styles—footwear for people who are reserved both in personality and psycho-sexual make-up. A Spaniard, Mr Rossi suggests, or an Italian, wants warmer styles, more colourful or flamboyant shoes.

What Mr Rossi is really saying is that no one but the sadomasochistic northern race—so much for the sexy Scandinavian image—would settle for a moment for shoes which were not both overtly seductive but at the same time comfortable. Why is it that I can buy cheap Italian shoes with 4 1/2 inch heels and walk around all day in them? But the buck, or maybe the bunion, has to stop somewhere, and so far as I am concerned it stops right here under my desk. Yes, I like high heels, often, occasionally, just depending how I feel, for one of the rewards of current fashion is that you can really dress to please whoever you wish, self or other. But surely I cannot be the only woman in England who wants to have her chic cake and eat it? Who wants to be able to shorten her stride and tiptoe vulnerably into certain situations and an hour later be free to stride off about other business?

Mr Rossi, in a book of incalculable repetitiousness and grinding sexual analogy, fights shy of the fashion implications of the shoe. I have recorded, and been silenced for my pains by one brogued reader, my view that the high platform sole, now relegated to the lower social and age brackets indicates a most interesting split in female hopes: On the one

hand you see that built-up height gives authority (Greek drama heroes wore buskins, Emperor Hirohito wore getas nearly twelve inches high when he was enthroned in 1926, but the rigid bulk makes quick movement, ie, flight from a predator, impossible).

Ten years after the liberated female adopted the Courreges shift and the Gucci boot or brogue, symbolizing her interest in red-hot technology and above all her control of her manifest destiny via the Pill, fashion has come right back to the high, slender heel—symbol, according to Mr Rossi, of all sorts of things you might or might not have suspected and utilitarian object for more things you might have suspected even less. It is, of course, the swing of the pendulum from aggressive feminist independence which now seems threatening in a period of high male unemployment and is thus discarded by the practical woman, to the realization that many women have a fortunate lot in life any way. And the ideal is almost here: the rare, complete female wears high, slim sexy heels when she wants to and platform clogs to keep her toes out of the way of the mud or the Tivoli she does about her self-sufficient daily life.

The dreadfulness of British shoes is more important than a fashion item, however. Ten years ago 109,000 persons were employed in the industry; now the number is 75,000, of which 6,000 are government supported. Two out of five pairs of shoes bought in this country are imported. Why? There are three reasons. The first is, of course, styling. The British industry is reactionary in the extreme to design, students eschew a career of inflexible mediocrity. The few good designers we do produce have to have their designs made abroad.

Point two is the pricing of shoes. In an excellent and perceptive piece in *The Observer* last weekend Brian Pell traced the screwing down process which, coupled to the unambitious management of too many of our footwear firms, has got everyone online for the easy life and the mass-market order in place of new design or adventurous investment. One of the most vivid and successful men in the retail business today, John Turner, who owns the Midas chain, says: "We would love to buy from English manufacturers, but their attitude is pathetic. Their ranges are so dull and unexciting. Often we say, won't you make something specially for us—there are firms in Norwich, for example, who really can make beautiful shoes—but mostly they don't want to know, so we buy abroad."

Point three is fit. I am beholden to Mr Rossi for introducing me to a new fashion word, *al-lagnia*. Originated by the German psychiatrist Schrenck-Norzing, a name I confess I would refer immediately to my colleague P. H. Simpliciuswerk, the word is compounded from *alago* (ruin) and

lagnia (voluptuousness). It is the ideal word to describe most British-made shoes, though the *alago* is in my experience usually superior to the *lagnia*. Should we be making shoes at all? The Germans have given it up, reckoning that such a labour-intensive industry would always be a cripple in a high-wage economy. The Americans too have given it up for the same reason, though President Carter's restrictions on imports of fashion and shoes have the EEC worried. Shoe manufacturers are stubbing their toes on a rock which this page has rehearsed before; the ambivalent attitude of the governing theme towards industries which can be promoted in less developed countries, enabling said countries to buy sophisticated hardware.

Eventually it must all come back to better design. We have that talent, schooled through our own art colleges but as yet unmarried specially to the shoe trade. We have to make up our state mind. Either we have a fashion industry and we support not just expedient areas of employment but invest in the future territories. Or we decide that we would rather sell plants than product and we stop training quite so many students for quite so tentative a future.

ALLINSON

Enter the £10,000 Bread-Making Competition!

What gas mark is recommended for baking bread? 4 or 5? Think you know? Then you may be in line for a prize in the new £10,000 Allinson Bread Making Competition. Answer that and five other questions correctly, adding why you wish to enter, and you could well qualify for the regional finals. Have your skill in baking comes under expert scrutiny.

There's a lot of cash to be won plus 24 Parkinson-Cowan 1700 2 Auto Dr Luxe Gas Cookers. So now's the time to buy a bag of Allinson Stone ground 100% Wholewheat Flour - with full details of the competition and the recipe for Allinson 100% Wholewheat Bread. And remember, however you get on, you're sure to bake a better loaf with Allinson.

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Before...and after.

Martini mixed with gin or vodka. One of the world's classical aperitifs. And after dinner, you can stay with it all night. Served on the rocks, or with ice and soda.

Some people have even been known to have it before and after lunch. Before and after sailing, golf, riding.

Before and after...just about anything.

The right one.

Any way.

MARTINI

EXTRA DRY

Only carefully selected wines and herbs are good enough for the world's most beautiful drink.

سكمان الشعل



Slower earnings growth points to overall rise of 8 to 9pc under phase two

By Melvyn Westlake

A marked slowdown is becoming evident in the rate at which earnings from employment are rising under phase two of the Government's pay policy, which began last August.

Although the increase in earnings during 1976-77 is certain to be a little higher than the Chancellor's 7 per cent target, there is confidence in Whitehall that the rise can be contained within a range of 8 per cent to 9 per cent.

According to figures published yesterday, the Government's official index of earnings, which covers about seven million manual and non-manual workers in industry, agriculture and services, rose only 0.1 per cent in January. This brings the rise during the first seven months of phase two to 5.9 per cent.

Already, 70 per cent of all workers expected to be covered by national wage settlements during the current phase have now settled under the terms of the policy which limits wage increases to a maximum of 4.1 per cent.

Heavy bunching of settlements in the early part of the 1976-77 pay round is expected to lead to a rather smaller rise in the earnings index during the final months of phase two.

If this proves the case, the outcome will be considerably below the 12 to 15 per cent predictions made by some commentators. The uncertainty has centred on the extent of "wage drift" that is occurring.

Results from things like overtime, piece work, job upgrading, and promotions. Essentially, it was these influences on earnings that account for the difference between the 4.1 per cent limit on wage increases and the Government's

WAGES

The following are the index numbers for basic rates of wages for all manual workers in all industries and services covered by the monthly earnings inquiry released by the Department of Employment:

	(1) Monthly rate (1972 = 100)	(2) Average earnings (1970 = 100)	(3) % change in (2) over 12 months at annual rate
1976			
Jan	202.1	248.3	15.8
Feb	206.4	250.0	15.6
Mar	207.5	254.4	16.6
Apr	210.1	255.0	11.2
May	211.7	255.6	16.3
June	216.8	261.2	11.1
July	218.0	263.1	13.3
Aug	219.1	267.2	12.2
Sept	219.2	268.1	12.0
Oct	219.5	269.0	8.0
Nov	220.7	272.2	7.7
Dec	221.5	277.1	17.6
1977			
Jan	223.8	278.1	14.2
Feb	224.5	278.5	9.5
Mar	225.1	n/a	n/a

revised
p provisional

Initial expectation of an overall 7 per cent rise in gross earnings.

The sharp rise in overtime working in the later months of 1976 is estimated to account for 1 percentage point of the 5.9 per cent rise so far in the current pay policy.

The increase in the earnings index during January and February of 0.4 and 0.1 per cent respectively, compare with monthly increases in excess of 1 per cent towards the end of last year. Moreover, with in-

dustrial output now likely to be depressed for some time, there would seem to be little scope for any further marked rise in the level of overtime working.

However, the very success of phase two could lead to difficulties in getting agreement with the trade unions for a further year pay restraint starting this summer.

Earnings since last August have risen by only just over half as fast as prices, and living standards have as a consequence shown a perceptible fall. The 5.9 per cent rise in pay compares with an 11.3 per cent increase in prices.

Living standards now seem certain to show their largest fall for 20 years. This is because inflation has come down much more slowly than was expected when the Chancellor and the trade union leaders agreed the 4.1 per cent pay restraint.

But Mr Healey argued in his recent Budget that if a further year of pay restraint was accepted, living standards would stabilise over coming months. However, many trade union leaders have already publicly announced their intention to try to recover the ground lost by their members in recent months.

On the other hand, the Treasury's economic forecasts assume that earnings under any stage three will be similar to the level now expected under the current round.

Even if earnings increases in 1977-78 were held down to below 10 per cent, the level of pay awards for many workers would be very much lower than under phase two because of the need to provide some groups with larger sums to meet demands for a restoration of differentials and the correction of anomalies.

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Table, page 36

Institutions claimed to be against Sir Eric

By John Brennan

Institutional shareholders in Peachey Property Corporation are lining up against the reelection of Sir Eric Miller as a director.

Lord Mait, Peachey's chairman, and Barclay's Merchant Bank, the group's financial advisers, are claiming the support of institutional shareholders to force the board's decision last week to ask for Sir Eric's resignation.

Yesterday Lord Mait said: "I never lose sight of the fact that there are many small shareholders and I am not one to count on a battle until it is won, but the people who matter have indicated that they support our stand."

Backing for Lord Mait's view came yesterday from Sun Alliance and London Insurance. Disclosing long held share stakes in Peachey totalling 5.77 per cent, which make Sun Alliance one of the largest holders of Peachey's shares, Mr Geoffrey Brown, the insurance group's investment manager, said: "It is our clear intention to support Lord Mait and the board against the reelection of Sir Eric Miller."

ICI's Pension Fund, which holds just over 5 per cent of Peachey, is not willing to be drawn publicly on its position. But Lord Mait said he was "reasonably sure of their support."

Institutional shareholders are believed to account for around half of Peachey's equity.

Sir Eric's only public reaction to the board's canvassing so far was a statement saying he was resigning. He has been made known to the board by a request by other directors for his resignation. "He is believed to control direct and family shares totalling about 5 per cent of the group and may be relying on the loyalty of private shareholders in his fight to remain on the board."

continually emphasized the point that Britain's complaints did not centre around Japan's exports to the United Kingdom. "The important point is that we must be given the opportunity to increase our exports of manufactured goods to Japan."

A senior spokesman for the Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry claimed that the trade gap between the two countries had developed because Japan, unlike the United Kingdom, had injected capital investments into projects to increase export productivity.

In answer, Mr Dell hit out at what he described as a curious approach towards the principles of free trade, Japan's attitude that if it can decide to invest in an area you do not import.

Mr Dell declared that he had

Merseyside anger at North-east choice as state shipbuilding base

By Peter Hill

British Shipbuilders is to base its headquarters in the North-east of England. The decision, announced yesterday by Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, immediately sparked off a row which will reverberate for some time.

The long-awaited announcement of the headquarters location—the subject of vigorous and bitter campaigning by the rival claimants—since the nationalization legislation was first introduced—was welcomed both by the organizing committee for the new state body and by spokesmen for the North-east.

But the North-west, which had been strongly favoured as the choice before the departure of Mr J. Graham Day, former chief executive designate, last December, expressed dismay and amazement.

Strong protests can be expected from the Merseyside County Council, which believes that the decision has been taken on political rather than economic grounds.

Mr John Price, an official of the Merseyside Council, said last night: "We are absolutely amazed, because everyone from Admiral Griffin

(chairman of the new organization) downwards had made it clear from the beginning that their top priority was ease of communication. We thought we had the headquarters in the bag."

Merseyside, with a good rail connection with London, a wide variety of flights from the near-by Manchester airport, international destinations, a good supply of trained office personnel (with higher unemployment than on the north-east coast) considered that on the grounds of providing an efficient base it was the only choice.

The precise location has still to be selected, but speculation that it will be either Newcastle or Sunderland. The siting will inevitably be of symbolic rather than practical importance, since had the Government not insisted on a development of the Merseyside Council, building the new body's executives would all have settled on London.

As it is, British Shipbuilders will have a permanent office in London which, although principally concerned with marketing, will be extensively used by the chairman and senior executives.

Lord Glenamara who is chairman of the North of England Development Council, said that the decision was one of eminent common-sense. He was pleased that the long campaign had borne fruit, since local authorities in the area had insisted that the headquarters should be in the North-east—the heart of the shipbuilding industry.

British Shipbuilders now has a location and a vesting day—July 1—but the new body has still to be formally established. The Government is experiencing considerable difficulty in recruiting members to full-time board, although its attempts may be made easier by yesterday's announcement.

At a meeting with Mr Kaufman, Minister for Industry, a joint management-union delegation from the Robb Caledon shipbuilding company at Leith expressed its concern over the prospect of redundancy in the group because of the shortage of orders—a prospect which is looming for thousands of other workers in the industry.

Mr Kaufman said the Government and the new corporation were doing all they possibly could to attract orders to the United Kingdom.

British Gas tariff change criticized

By Roger Vielvoys

Owners of some shops, offices and public houses are facing 18 to 25 per cent increases in their gas bills from the beginning of this month because of the tariff change announced by a special commercial hearing.

British Gas announced last month that it would increase all gas prices by an average of 10 per cent at government request, but did not at that time announce the end of the commercial hearing tariff.

The National Utility service said yesterday that British Gas had with no prior warning abandoned its commercial hearing tariff and transferred all the customers to the general credit tariff where it had announced price rises of 6 to 7 per cent.

But the net effect of the transfer on to a more expensive tariff was to increase their bills by 18 to 25 per cent.

In normal circumstances, customers could expect a public utility to announce in advance its plans for ending a particular tariff, followed by a decision to freeze the tariff and not allow any new customers.

British Gas said it did not dispute that prices for people being transferred, as on the general credit tariff might be between 18 and 25 per cent, but added that very few people would be affected.

Mr Hattersley hints at agency to combine prices and competition

By Derek Harris

Commercial Editor

An agency to combine the Government's competition and price policy was hinted at yesterday by Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.

The suggestion follows discussion in Whitehall and outside about the extended powers of the reorganized Competition Commission, which will become effective in the summer. The new powers mean particularly that the commission could begin investigations into companies' commercial practices which otherwise might have been dealt with by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

There has also been discussion on how far the operation of the Office of Fair Trading might be affected by the wider powers of the new Price Commission.

Mr Hattersley, who was speaking yesterday to the Industrial Society, said that the Monopolies Commission, the Restrictive Trade Practices Court and the OFT all existed to promote competition by intervention.

However, none of those agencies had the power to operate quickly against a price which in a restricted market was held artificially high.

"The Price Bill contains that power," he added, "and when inflation is finally overcome and there is no further need to restrict competition and price restraint, the power to investigate a price and freeze it will remain an important part of competition policy."

"Perhaps it will be exercised by a new agency that properly combines our competition and price policy."

This indication of Mr Hattersley's current thinking on competition policy is not being interpreted in Whitehall as a precursor of an early initiative. However, the future of competition policy is said to be one of the different roles of the agencies responsible for it, has been under review for some months.

There have been signs of dissatisfaction. The Monopolies Commission is said to be too cumbersome, and the OFT's new director general, Mr Gordon Borrie, has seen his first major recommendation (the Tate & Lyle and Manbre & Garon sugar interests merger) turned down by Mr Hattersley for political reasons.

Mr Borrie has also been putting a strong case for changes that would give his department more authority to identify cartel practices like price rings.

Dr Otmar Emminger confirmed as bank chief

From Peter Norman

Boon, April 20

The West German Cabinet today approved the appointment of Dr Otmar Emminger to the presidency of the Federal Bank in Frankfurt as successor to Dr Karl Klasen who is due to retire at the end of May.

It also nominated Herr Karl Otto Pöhl, who is at present state secretary in the Bonn Finance Ministry, to become the Federal Bank's vice-president in succession to Dr Emminger.

Before the appointments become official, they must be the subject of a hearing in the Federal Bank's central council and approved by Herr Walter Scheel, the West German President. However, these formalities can be regarded as routine.

Herr Klaus Bölling, the West German Government spokesman, said today that the contract of Dr Emminger, 66, will run to the end of 1979. Although there will be no automatic succession for Herr Pöhl to the central bank's presidency on Dr Emminger's retirement, he must be regarded as one of the more likely candidates in the event of his proving a success.

For Dr Emminger, the appointment to the presidency of the Federal Bank will crown a long and distinguished career in the German central bank system spanning more than a quarter of a century. As a result of his activities in

international monetary affairs, he has earned the unofficial title of "foreign minister" of the Federal Bank.

At the relatively early age of 47, Herr Pöhl already has a spectacularly successful career behind him. From being an economic journalist and manager, he has moved into the Private Banking Association, he was drafted into government service by Herr Willy Brandt.

As state secretary in the Finance Ministry, Herr Pöhl earned the confidence of Herr Schmidt, the Chancellor, when he held the Finance Ministry.

On the specific orders of Herr Schmidt, Herr Pöhl has been making the German preparations for next month's summit in London.

The Federal Bank's central council is expected to give its approval to the appointments of Dr Emminger and Herr Pöhl at its meeting tomorrow.

It will also be taking a look at the progress of the German economy. Over the past few weeks doubts have been growing as to whether the economy can achieve the real 5 per cent growth in gross national product envisaged by the West German Government for this year.

Recent statistics on industrial orders and production have proved particularly confusing, partly because of changes in the method of collating them at the turn of the year.

It is hoped that the Hanover trade fair, which opens today, and the joint report of the country's five leading economic research institutes, due next week, will provide more positive indicators in time for the London summit on May 7 and 8.

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Midland Bank Limited

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of Midland Bank Limited was held yesterday at The Chartered Insurance Institute, 20 Aldermanbury, London, E.C.2.

Lord Armstrong of Sanderstead, the Chairman, presided.

The Report of the Directors and the Accounts for the year 1976 were adopted.

The retiring Directors were re-appointed, except for Mr. E. J. W. Hellmuth who did not offer himself for re-appointment.

The Directors were authorised to fix the Auditors' Remuneration.

The share capital of the Bank was increased to £200 million by the creation of 50 million shares of £1 each.

The Special Resolution set out in the Notice of Meeting upon the requisition of certain shareholders, which would have required the Bank to make no further loans to the South African Government or its agencies, was not carried. On a poll 3,647,050 votes were cast in favour of the Resolution and 48,885,525 votes against it.

Financial Editor, page 25

Japanese ideas on trade disappoint Mr Dell

From Peter Hazlehurst

Tokyo, April 20

After attaching Japan's restrictive trade barriers during a series of meetings with Japanese leaders in Tokyo this week, Mr Dell, Secretary of State for Trade, indicated tonight that he had been disappointed by the vague response to his plea for a more equitable pattern of trade.

Mr Dell, who departed for Seoul tomorrow, summed up a round of protracted talks between Mr Takeo Fukuda, the Japanese Prime Minister, and other leading politicians and businessmen, with the claim that Japan had a "curious" attitude towards the principles of free trade.

He also told British journalists tonight that he had insisted that the trade imbalance between the two countries could only be rectified if British exports of manufactured goods to Japan doubled within two years.

He had not threatened direct reprisals, but warned the Japanese that an alternative course would "involve increasing difficulties in our relationship because of the levels of unemployment in the United Kingdom and because of the deficits that many European nations suffer."

Outlining the details of his talks with Mr Fukuda, Mr Tatsuoka Tanaka, Minister for International Trade and Industry and leaders of industry, Mr Dell told the journalists that he had attempted to persuade Japan to increase its imports of manufactured goods to an acceptable level.

"I came here to make one point. I made it to the Prime Minister, the foreign minister and Mr Doko (president of Keidanren, the Japanese CBI). The point I made was that we must be given the opportunity to increase our exports of manufactured goods to Japan."

A senior spokesman for the Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry claimed that the trade gap between the two countries had developed because Japan, unlike the United Kingdom, had injected capital investments into projects to increase export productivity.

In answer, Mr Dell hit out at what he described as a curious approach towards the principles of free trade, Japan's attitude that if it can decide to invest in an area you do not import.

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Sir Arthur Hawkins angry over Benn refusal of compensation for Drax order

Continued from page 1

The Government wants to accelerate station orders which cannot be justified on present estimates of electricity demand and supply capacity. It must offer compensation for the extra costs involved.

They claim there is a precedent when, under a Conservative government, the Ince B power station in Cheshire was prematurely ordered in 1971 to protect employment at turbo-generator and boiler-making factories in the North-east. Then Whitehall granted relief on interest charges.

In the present situation, the CEBG says it has enough capacity either in operation or under commission to meet foreseeable demands without ordering any new station before 1979.

To order the second Drax station to help both the coal mining industry as well as certain power station equipment firms will involve the generating board in between £140m and £180m of extra interest charges for 1977-79.

What has apparently stung Sir Arthur, who retires on May 8 to make way for Mr Glyn England, the new chairman, is Mr Benn's rejection of compensation.

The board has always been ready to build Drax B after 1979 if justified on commercial grounds and it has expected rationalisation among generator and boiler-making suppliers to take place to deal with the supply industry's difficulties.

A new ordering programme, to start from 1979, has been offered, but this is conditional

on rationalisation among companies such as Babcock and Wilcox, C. A. Parsons, GEC and Clark Chapman.

A number of companies are behind Mr Benn's wish to build the second Drax station, which naturally is supported by the National Coal Board and the mining unions.

How far Sir Arthur and his successor are prepared to go in defying the Government remains to be seen. Heads of state industries are known to be worried by ministers who act without explicit statutory backing in giving instructions on how they should run their enterprises.

Some legal advisers have claimed certain actions to be ultra vires, and urged that remedies be sought in the courts, as after the Tameside and Laker Airways cases.

In brief NEB to maintain tanning deal despite legal threat

The National Enterprise Board has decided not to abandon its £3m support for the tanning interests of Barrow Herring Group despite a legal threat to sue the board.

ICL, through a Bermuda-based subsidiary, is raising £150m (about £37m) by a 10-year issue at 64 per cent, which is being arranged by Berliner Handelsbank and Frankfurt Bank, Deutsche Bank and Dresdner Bank.

In a letter to the group's solicitors last night the NEB's legal advisers said that the main points of the proposals—under which the board would buy for £500,000 half the equity of a new company, British Tanners' Products—were not in breach of the NEB's statutory duties as claimed by the group.

According to the letter the board expects an adequate rate of return on its investment, and does not expect that the provision of finance on commercial terms to British Tanners gives it an unfair competitive advantage.

The group of tanners meets today to decide whether to take legal action.

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Pearson Longman Limited

Preliminary Results for the year to 31st December 1976

	1976	1975
Turnover	£000	£000
The Financial Times Limited	23,235	19,394
Westminster Press Limited	53,155	46,113
Longman Holdings Limited	32,466	23,103
The Penguin Publishing Company Limited	18,698	17,248
Ladybird Books Limited	3,536	3,551
Inter-company turnover eliminated	(882)	(759)
	130,198	108,650
Profit before interest		
The Financial Times Limited	2,453	1,084
Westminster Press Limited	4,490	1,738
Longman Holdings Limited	8,136	4,912
The Penguin Publishing Company Limited	3,213	2,317
Ladybird Books Limited	798	875
Pearson Longman Limited	(42)	(59)
Sundry adjustments	27	4
	19,075	10,871
Deduct		
Interest payable less interest receivable	(931)	(1,614)
Profit before taxation		
The company and its subsidiaries	18,144	9,257
Associated companies	1,730	632
	19,874	9,889
Taxation thereon		
The company and its subsidiaries	7,827	3,869
United Kingdom	1,914	1,074
Overseas	5,913	2,795
Associated companies	538	333
	10,377	5,076
Profit of the group after taxation		
Profit attributable to minority interests	3,497	4,813
Profit attributable to shareholders	(484)	(195)
Profit of the year before extraordinary items		
Extraordinary items profit/(loss)	3,013	4,618
	152	(650)
Net profit attributable to Pearson Longman Limited		
Dividends	3,155	3,568
Preference shares		
Pence per share	(22)	(22)
Ordinary shares		
First interim	1,760	1,400
Second interim	3,610	3,473 (final)
	5,370	4,873
tax credit to shareholders		
	2,886	2,624
	3,246	7,497
Profit retained and added to reserves		
Capital reserves	150	234
Revenue reserves	6,774	1,703
	6,924	1,937
Earnings per ordinary share (based on profit before extraordinary items but after deducting preference dividends)		
	21.810p	11.148p

The exchange surplus arising on the annual reconversion of net assets overseas amounting to £282,775 (1975 £431,993) has been transferred direct to reserves. The figure shown above for extraordinary items in 1976 has been restated to reflect this change in practice.

The directors have declared a second interim dividend on the ordinary shares of 3.610p per share for the year to 31st December 1976 (1975 final 3.473p). This dividend will be payable on 3rd June 1977 to ordinary shareholders on the register at the close of business on 8th May 1977 and will entitle United Kingdom shareholders to a tax credit of thirty-five pence-fifths of the actual

amount received. It will therefore be equivalent to a gross dividend of 5.554p per share, making with the first interim dividend already paid a total of 9.246p per share (1975 7.497p). This is the maximum permitted under existing legislation.

The directors intend to recommend to shareholders that if the rate of advance corporation tax for 1977/78 is reduced, a final ordinary dividend in respect of 1976 be paid later in the year of such amount as will ensure that total gross ordinary dividends for the year are maintained at the maximum permitted under current legislation.



Companies receiving Queen's Awards for achievement in export and technology

Here is a complete list of the Queen's Awards for export and technology:

FOR EXPORT

Aero Caravan; The Angus Irrigation unit of the Angus Fire Armour division of George Angus; The construction products division of Aruco; Laura Ashley; Austin & Pickersill; BICC Telecommunications Cables; The biscuit division of Baxters; Perkins; Banyard Metalheat; T. T. Boughton & Sons.

Bowling Reproductions; C. T. Bowring (Insurance) Holdings; The military aircraft division of British Aircraft Corporation; British Airways Board; British Films; British Steel Corporation (Overseas Services); John Brown Engineering (Clydebank); Brush Switchgear; C-Power (Marine); Carreras Rothmans.

Cohen Bros (Electrical); Coles Cranes; Concor Buildings Overseas; Coronet EM; Croston; Darlington & Simpson Rolling Mills; Davy-Loewy; Thomas De La Rue; Derwent Publications; Dima International.

EMI Medical; Escal Products; Ethicon; Exploration and Production Services (North Sea); The military products division of Fiske Engineering; Fletcher and Stewart; Foster Wheeler; GEC Turbine Generators; A Gallenkamp; Goodenough Pumps.

Craft Diamonds; Sir William Halcrow & Partners; John Harvey & Sons; Hattersley Newman Hender; Hawker Siddeley Power Engineering; Hunting Surveys and Consultants; IBIS Medical Equipment & Supplies; Inchcape; Inductron; The International marine coatings division of International Paint; Dick James Music.

Kandya Meredith; Kennedy & Donkin; Lesney Products; London American Finance Corporation; Kenneth Mackenzie Holdings; L. H. Mackerness; Marconi Instruments; Marconi International Marine; Marks and Spencer; Martin Black.

Albert Martin Knitwear; May & Baker; Thomas Meadows; Michell Tyre; The semiconductor products division of Motorola; Geo. Moulton Successors; North Devon Meat; Arthur F. Organ (Packaging Machinery); Pandrol; Josiah Parkes & Sons.

The management consultancy firm of Peat, Marwick, Mitchell; Perbow; Petrocarbon Developments; Phoenix Engineering; Platt, Saco Lowell; The Plessey Navvies division of Plessey Electronic Systems; Polarcoid (UK); Portals Holdings; Quest Automation; Racal-Tacticon; Record Ridgeway.

Henry Cooke, Beetham, Milthorpe—development of a fully sized transfer printing base paper specifically designed for textile transfer printing; The Hershman division of Decca Radar, Walton-on-Thames—development in conjunction with the Civil Aviation Authority, of the Decca Airfield Surface Movement Indicator Radar.

EMI-MEC, East Grinstead—development of a fully automatic plugboard controlled turning machine; The agrochemical division of Fisons, Cambridge—development of a selective herbicide which has particular application in weed control of sugar beet crops and is safe to use in ryegrass for the control of other grasses.

The plant protection division of Imperial Chemical Industries, Haslemere—development of Pirimicarb, a new specific aphicide which is claimed to have high toxicity to all aphids; Johnson Matthey Research Centre, Reading—development of platinum alloy catalysts for pollution control in vehicle exhaust systems.

Land and Marine Engineering, Bromborough—development of techniques for the burial of sub-sea pipelines; The electrical division of Lucas Aerospace, Hemel Hempstead—development of a toroidal constant speed drive for aircraft generators.

Malvern Instruments, Malvern, Hereford and Worcester—for the Malvern Correlator, an instrument developed to study the fundamental fluctuations of light signals, usually laser light; Marconi Instruments, St Albans—development of a digital storage VHF spectrum analyser.

Marconi Space and Defence Systems, Stanmore—technological achievement with "Blind fire" radar system for use with the British Aircraft Corporation's "Rapier" low-level air defence missile system; Marwin Cutting Tools, Rothley, Leicestershire—development of a process for the production of helical tungsten carbide tips.

The Mining Research and Development Establishment of the National Coal Board, Stanhope Brethly, Burton-on-Trent—development of an in-seam mining machine; The National Vegetable Research Station—technological achievement in the production and supply of United Kingdom-grown bulb onions throughout the year.



White heat: Mr Harry Banyard (right), chairman and managing director of Banyard Metalheat Limited, his wife Jocelyn and fellow director Mr Don Martin—who formed the staff of the company when it started 10 years ago—looking at the induction coil of a large rapid-

heating electric induction furnace being assembled at Poole for export to France. It is part of a total induction heating installation for heating steel billets and ingots and is believed to be the largest furnace of its kind ever built in Europe.

automatic plugboard controlled turning machine; The agrochemical division of Fisons, Cambridge—development of a selective herbicide which has particular application in weed control of sugar beet crops and is safe to use in ryegrass for the control of other grasses.

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Paxman Diesels, Colchester—development of a range of diesel engines which are compact and give up to 50 per cent greater power for their size; Pircraft, Hoyland, Nether, S Yorkshire—development of a chainless haulage system for longwall working in mines.

Ralko, High Wycombe—development of reinforced plastics gear shaft bearing materials; Ernest Sraggs & Sons, Macclesfield—development of a friction twisting device for the production of textured man-made fibre yarns; Sorex (London); Wembley—development of new rodenticides for the control of rats and mice.

The East Asiatic Company Limited, Copenhagen

Annual Report 1976

The moderate economic recovery, which was evident in a few major industrial countries, slackened again in the second half of the year, and world trade to-day presents a rather diverse picture in which, for instance, the very important shipping sector has shown no perceptible progress.

In the absence of signs of a general recovery, fluctuations in world economic conditions are to be expected in 1977, and in Denmark the economic development still depends on whether the rise in costs can be stabilized and competitiveness strengthened.

Thanks to the diversity and global activities of our Company, the Group accounts show an improvement in net profit from kr 153.1 million in 1975 to kr 269.4 million in 1976, and a rise in turnover from kr 16,100 million to kr 20,000 million in the same period.

The Parent Company's results for 1976 was a net profit of kr 109.8 million, against kr 91.1 million in 1975, after allocation of kr 75 million to the Special Contingency Fund, which now stands at kr 250 million, and after provision of kr 78.8 million for depreciation on ships, buildings, etc. and kr 47.3 million for corporation taxes.

With the addition of kr 23.6 million brought forward from last year, the amount at disposal totals kr 133.4 million which it is proposed to appropriate in accordance with the profit and loss statement, including distribution to shareholders of a dividend of 12 per cent of the share capital of kr 500 million, equal to a total amount of kr 60 million.

The legislation on dividend ceilings still prevents payment of the amount of kr 10 million, representing additional 2 per cent dividend provided for in 1973.

It is pertinent to mention already in the Introduction that in accordance with the Company's general policy and in keeping with the times, the process of transforming the remaining overseas branches into independent joint-stock companies is being pursued, having regard to the ultimate aim of gradually attracting local capital into these companies and, wherever possible, to include local staff as shareholders.

This process, incidentally, will gradually include these subsidiary companies in the Group accounts which, in turn, will become of increasing importance as the Company's primary accounts.

Copies of the full Report are available on request.

GROUP PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT FOR 1976

(rate of exchange per 31st December 1976: US-\$ 100 = D.kr. 578.39)

	1976	1975
	(1,000 kr)	(1,000 kr)
Turnover	20,049,629	16,101,280
External turnover	15,198,210	12,948,006
Internal turnover	4,851,419	3,153,274
	20,049,629	16,101,280
Result of Activities		
Turnover and result of activities derive from:		
Shipping	1,457,080	213,816
Trade	7,608,100	427,795
Industry	5,315,267	471,420
Forest and plantation industry	789,207	182,752
Miscellaneous income	48,556	24,822
	15,198,210	1,320,605
Dividend on investments outside the Group	17,467	18,948
Administration expenses	1,338,072	1,042,273
	853,968	328,133
Profit before Depreciation	879,104	714,140
Depreciation on fixed assets	268,025	223,841
Profit before Financing Expenses	711,079	490,299
Financing expenses	260,570	205,500
	450,509	284,799
Extraordinary income and expenses	33,827	20,449
Profit before Taxation	484,127	514,444
Corporation tax	214,761	161,898
Group Result for the Year	269,366	152,546
Minority shareholders' share in the results of subsidiary companies	109,118	48,657
The East Asiatic Company, Limited's share in the Group Result	160,248	103,889
(before allocation to the Parent Company's special contingency fund: 1976: kr 75 million 1975: kr 75 million)		

Head office: 2, Holbergsgade, DK-1099 Copenhagen K., Denmark



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Unilever in 1976

The year in brief

Sales for 1976 rose from £6,760 million to £8,731 million. Volume accounted for 8 per cent of this increase. Profits showed a good recovery as compared with the disappointing results in 1975. Restocking in the first half-year, particularly in Europe, contributed to these improved figures.

In Europe there was a major improvement in most product groups as compared with 1975. However, margins in general are still too low. Results in edible fats and other foods, chemicals, paper, plastics and packaging and animal feeds showed a marked recovery. Frozen foods and ice cream again did well. Our toilet preparations businesses showed further growth. Our two major meat companies continued to make operating losses. These were increased by heavy costs of restructuring in the United Kingdom.

In North America results were generally satisfactory. In most other countries outside Europe there was further sales and profit growth. UAC International contributed substantially to the higher 1976 results.

Exchange rates and their effect on reported figures

Almost all currencies were affected by the substantial variations in the floating rates of exchange. Sterling, the French franc and the Italian lira, all fell substantially against the guilder and Deutschmark, particularly. The dollar depreciated against the linked European currencies but appreciated against sterling, the franc and the lira. Our Accounts for 1976 have been prepared using the 1976 closing exchange rate of £1=FFL 4.18. The 1975 accounts were prepared using the 1975 closing exchange rate of £1=FFL 5.43. This 23 per cent depreciation of sterling against the guilder has a major effect on all our figures, as expressed respectively in each of our reporting currencies. In particular, increases in sales, profits, capital expenditure and net liquid funds, are all much greater when stated in depreciated sterling than when stated in appreciated guilders.

Had rates remained at end 1975 levels the increase in both sterling and guilders would have been 52 per cent in group operating profit. The difference between this and the actual sterling increase is almost entirely the result of the depreciation of sterling.

Finance

Dominant influences were the recovery of profits and increase in working capital, caused by higher raw material prices as well as by higher sales volume. Capital expenditure remained well above depreciation.

Our net liquid funds rose by £64 million of which £50 million was additional loan capital. Net liquid funds at the year-end represented a little under 5 per cent of the year's sales to third parties: the corresponding percentage both in 1975 and on average over the past 10 years was 4 per cent. The strength of our balance sheet gives us confidence that we can meet our heavy capital expenditure programme and any sudden increases in working capital arising from world inflation and raw material price fluctuations. During 1976 we spent a total of £14 million on acquisitions.

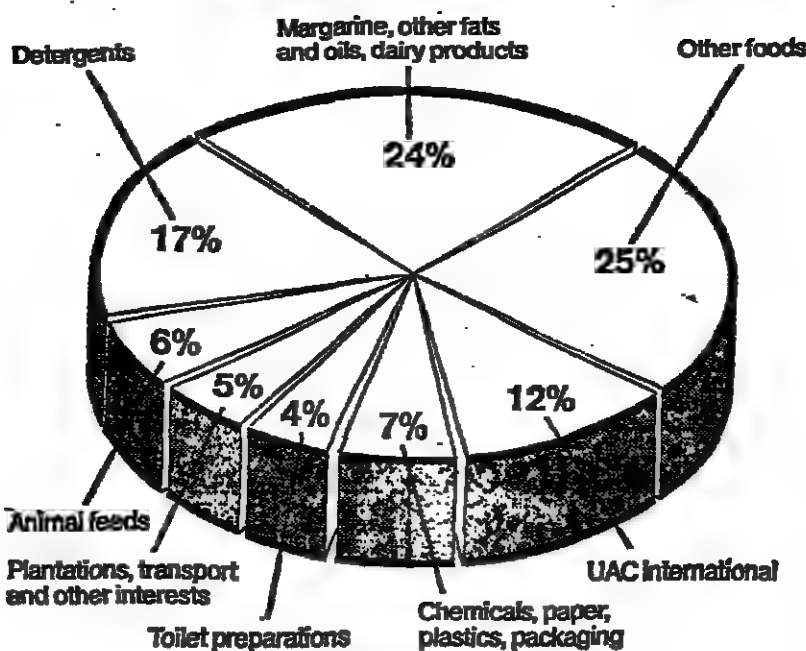
The economic background

Economic conditions in 1976 were more favourable than in 1975. There was a quite pronounced recovery from economic recession in the industrialised world in the first half of the year. Many mineral oil-exporting countries continued to boom. Some developing countries recorded another year of growth, all mineral oil-importing countries suffered from increased oil prices. The growing burden of external debt of some developing countries is a worrying feature of the world economic scene.

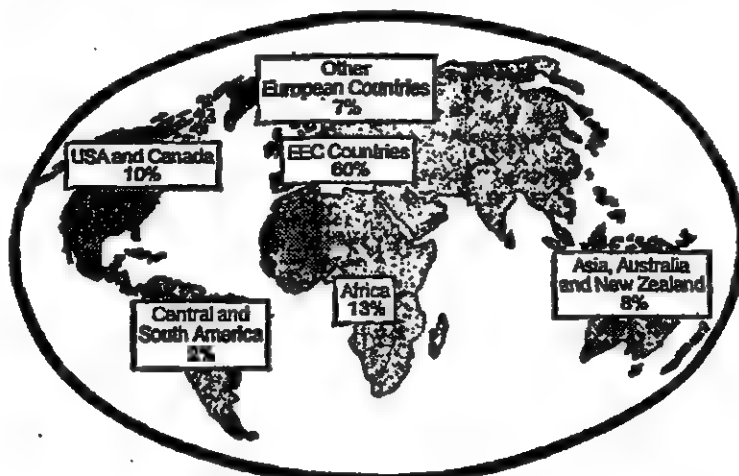
Inflation was not as severe in 1976 as it had been in 1974 and 1975 but it was still high. It averaged 11 per cent for the world in which Unilever operates.

However, levels of unemployment did not respond to the limited economic recovery and even rose in a number of countries.

The more favourable economic conditions have led to an increase in published profits in many countries, but the trend is to a decline in real profitability to levels which are too low—not least in our two home countries the United Kingdom and the Netherlands. There are signs that governments are becoming aware of the need to reverse this trend if new investment is to be made on the scale required for the healthy expansion of the world economy.

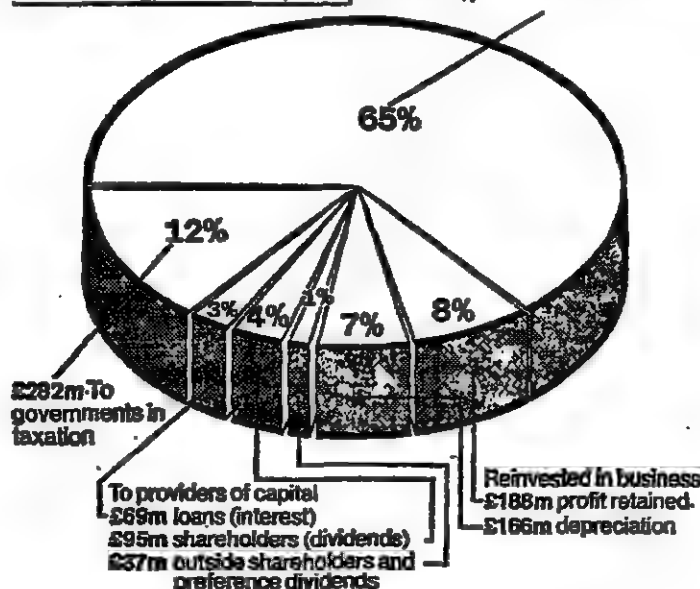


Selling a wide variety of products...



...in markets across the world...

Sales to third parties	£8,731m	How the value added was distributed:
Investment income	£ 48m	
Less cost of Materials and services purchased	£6,352m	
Value added	£2,427m	
		£1,990m To employees in wages, salaries, pension contributions



...to contribute to standards of living everywhere.



International developments

Three developments in the past year internationally have been of special interest to us.

First, the promulgation by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) of guidelines for multinational enterprises. We have publicly expressed our support for, and our determination to comply with, these guidelines which are very similar to the standards it has been our long-standing practice to observe. Our Report and Accounts meets the guidelines on disclosure of information. We attach great significance to the recognition by the governments of the OECD countries that they also have to respect certain rules, in particular that there should be no discrimination between nationally-owned and foreign-owned companies.

The second was the European Commission's totally unjustifiable proposal for a tax on edible oils and fats which attempted to deal with the structural surplus of milk in the Community, but only at the expense of another industry and its consumers. The proposal—without solving the dairy problem—would, moreover, increase the cost of living, and hamper exports from the developing countries.

The third development was the adoption by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) of a resolution to convene further meetings on an integrated programme for some 20 commodities. This seeks to protect the economies of developing countries by universal buffer stock schemes linked to the indexation of raw material prices. For edible oils and fats the practical difficulties of such an approach would be immense and in our view would be likely to disrupt the world market. We believe that the export income of developing countries would be better safeguarded by compensatory finance schemes, like those under the Lomé Agreement, rather than by interfering with the long-term balance of supply and demand.

Prospects

Inflation will remain high in most countries, with raw material costs expected to rise more rapidly than general inflation.

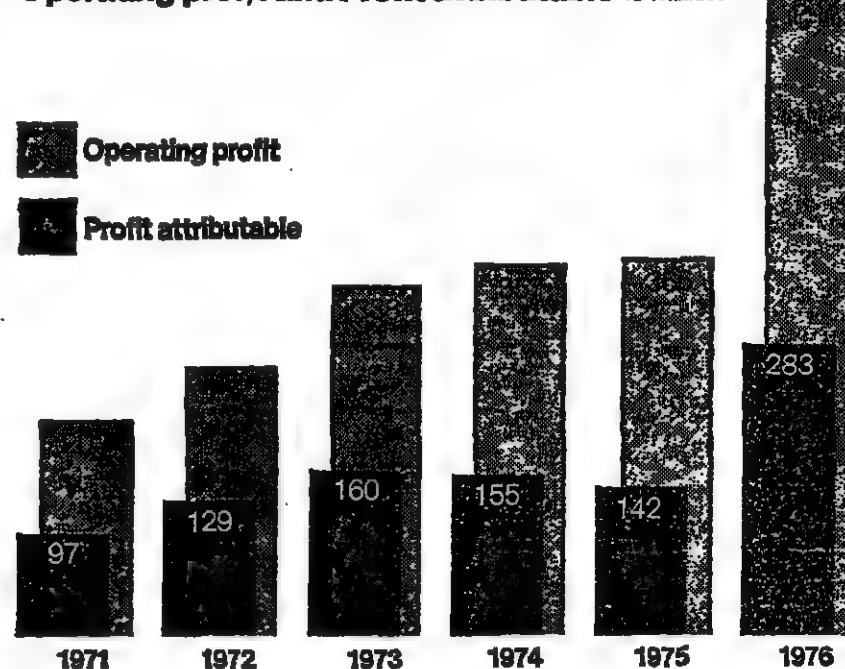
Unemployment is not likely to fall in the current year.

Industrial activity in the first few months of 1977 will not have the benefit of the considerable restocking that took place in the corresponding months of the previous year. While growth of the economies in which we operate is expected to be a little slower than last year, there should be reasonable growth in the particular market areas with which we are concerned. In general, our business is expected to make progress.

Employees

The progress that was achieved during the year was made possible only by the efforts of our employees throughout the business. We wish to record our warm thanks to them.

Operating profit and Profit attributable £ million



Unilever

Unilever comprises Unilever Limited, Unilever N.V. and their respective subsidiaries which operate in more than seventy countries. The Report and Accounts of Limited as usual combine the results and operations of Limited and N.V. with figures expressed in Sterling. Copies of the 1976 Report and Accounts have been posted to shareholders and holders of debentures and unsecured loan stock of Unilever Limited. If you would like to receive a copy please fill in the coupon. The Annual General Meeting of the Members of Unilever Limited will be held in The Queen's Room, The Baltic Exchange, 14-20 St. Mary Axe, London EC3, on Wednesday 11th May, 1977 at 11 a.m.



To: The Company Secretary, Unilever Limited,
Unilever House, London EC4P 4BQ.

Please send me a copy of your 1976 Report and Accounts.

Name

Address

BSC faces a squeeze on investment

By Peter Hill
Industrial Correspondent

Worsening market conditions and little prospect of any significant improvement in demand before the end of this year have created problems for the British Steel Corporation in financing its investment programme.

Instead of making a considerable contribution towards capital and working capital requirements from internally generated funds in the current financial year, the BSC will be unable to provide any funds from its own resources. After tough negotiations with the Treasury and Department of Industry the

BSC is being limited to a £950m ceiling on external financing under the cash limits system.

This was revealed to an all-party committee of MPs, who are investigating the affairs of the BSC, by civil servants from the two departments.

MPs said that last October there were suggestions that the BSC would be able to fund about half of the total capital requirements of more than £900m for the current year. This was subsequently revised downwards in the Public Expenditure White Paper to a BSC contribution of £204m.

This was later amended in the Budget statement to show that the BSC would, in fact, be unable to make any contribution to the programme from its own internally generated funds.

Mr Solomon Gross, Under-Secretary in charge of the Department of Industry's iron and steel division, told the subcommittee of the Nationalized Industries Committee that the steel industry had been in the grip of a serious recession and the upturn which was expected last autumn had not materialized. Consequently, trading prospects had changed drastically

since the original forecasts.

"We feel that although trading prospects are bad we should encourage the BSC to invest," Mr Gross said.

Advertisement critics strike: Management of the Port Talbot steelworks, which has been closed by an unofficial strike by 520 electricians, yesterday put an advertisement in Welsh newspapers criticizing the men's action. It said the strikers' claim was unrealistic, against the pay code, and exploitation of the introduction of new plant.

Leyland may urge early government decision

By Edward Townsend

Pressure from British Leyland for an early government decision on the car company's future may increase next week after Ministers have received copies of the Leyland board's wide-ranging review of its operations and investment strategy.

Although the company's car division has imposed a three-month ban on capital spending, directors are likely to stress that the lack of a speedy conclusion on the review will be a further blow to morale.

With the company's domestic market share falling to about 22 per cent, it will be argued that a review of the Leyland model programme, particularly among dealers, must be dispensed quickly.

The review, although not yet written, is expected to receive final approval from the Leyland board on Friday and be sent to the National Enterprise Board and the Department of Industry next week.

Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, has already made clear that a decision may not be made until the summer. This would allow Whitehall to monitor the company's progress in achieving a more stable industrial relations climate.

He has stressed that approval for the next tranche of state funds, for which Leyland is due to apply in mid-summer, is dependent on achieving and maintaining consistently high levels of car output.

It seems certain that the Leyland board's review will list the various options it considers are now open and will recommend measures that will involve a considerable scaling down of the 10-year Ryder plan.

Leyland management is in favour of retaining the £250m plan to build a replacement for the Mini, although the Government considers this to be one of the most vulnerable of Leyland Cars' projects.

There has also been pressure for priority to be switched from the Mini successor to a new range to replace the Marina and Allegro models.

Obsolete plant and productivity in the British Steel Corporation

From Mr. Jonathan Ayles

Sir, Your correspondent, Mr. Renton ("A warning against wasting money to try to save a sick steel industry," April 15), is right to argue that money should not be wasted in trying to maintain obsolete open hearth steelmaking within the British Steel Corporation, notably at Shotton in North Wales.

In evidence to the Select Committee on Nationalized Industries to be published next week we show that production labour in open hearth plants have, on average, a labour productivity only a third of that realized in oxygen steelmaking shops, while the best oxygen shops have a labour productivity ten times that of the worst open hearth shop. The fuel costs alone for open hearth steelmaking are equal to the total running costs for a replacement oxygen steelmaking shop.

Mr Renton is unduly pessimistic in his belief that the British Steel Corporation will be unable to reduce its manning levels to international standards. We are also able to show that manning levels for production labour engaged in iron and steelmaking are closely related to the age and size of furnace and type of technology used. The newer, larger, up-to-date show productivity levels substantially and systematically higher than their older, smaller counterparts.

New plant is necessary to ensure that these lower manning levels are realized throughout the corporation. Not that new plant is sufficient by itself; management in their will also be required to reduce manning levels for non-production labour which accounts for over 70 per cent of those engaged in iron and steelmaking activities within the BSC.

But surely the point of greatest concern was missed by

Mr Renton, namely the long delays in obtaining government go-ahead for new projects. The Japanese built and commissioned a six million tonne integrated steelworks at Odisha from scratch in 24 months. The government took 27 months merely to sanction the Port Talbot expansion. Nor is this an isolated instance.

Delays in sanctioning the new Redcar blast furnace, and more recently, the Redcar plate mill and delays in permitting the closure of obsolete, high cost works might also be cited. A "stick" government machine is itself wasting money by imposing avoidable delays on the British Steel Corporation and preventing the necessary introduction of new, lower-cost plant.

Yours sincerely,
JONATHAN AYLES,
Department of Economics and Geography,
University of Salford,
Salford, M5 4WT,
April 18.

Letters to the Editor

EEC fears over future of steel exports to America

From David Cross
Brussels, April 20

Growing concern in the EEC about future access of its steel products to the United States is figuring prominently in two days of talks between senior American and European Commission officials which opened here today.

The Community is trying to

persuade the American Administration to be more helpful on imports of EEC special steels. It is also worried that a recent American court decision to levy duties on imports of Japanese electronic goods could spread to EEC steel generally.

The countervailing duties were imposed to offset Japanese

export tax rebates similar to those refunded by the Community on steel exports, which has irked American steel producers in the past.

Peter Hill writes: Calls for the British clothing industry to play a strong and active role in the European arena, particularly in discussions with the EEC Commission, were made yesterday.

Mr Norman Sturgeon, chairman of the British Clothing Industry's joint council, said that the British Clothing Industry Council for Europe had made a solid contribution to the work of the European Association of Clothing Industries, but that body was still not as effective as it should be.

Unit trusts total worst in six years

Unit trusts suffered their worst setback for six years last month, when net new investment dropped to £1.78m, according to figures from the Unit Trust Association yesterday. Although sales of units were £3.8m higher than in February, at £26.9m, repurchases amounted to £25.2m, as against £20.2m for the previous month.

The latest figures confirm widespread reports over the past few weeks that the industry was experiencing a particularly high level of redemptions. In the event the level of net sales in March was the lowest since August, 1971, when they dropped to £250,000.

Mr Edgar Palmountain, newly appointed chairman of the Unit Trust Association, said yesterday: "These figures reflect the squeezing of the clientele by inflation and tax." He said he was not discouraged by the figures for March, and claimed they did not show that investors were disillusioned.

A number of factors appear to have affected the level of redemptions. Investors have been attracted by the particularly attractive 16th issue of National Savings Certificates, which closed at the end of March and provided some strong competition for smaller savers.

The recent rise in the stock market has also given investors who are suffering a squeeze on their incomes an opportunity to sell units.

CBI sticks to 6pc pay rises for phase three

The Grand Council of the Confederation of British Industry yesterday instructed its leadership to stick to the policy that industry would allow no more than a 6 per cent increase in the national pay bill in the next phase of the pay policy.

Taking account of wage drift, this would mean a norm of around 3 per cent.

Lord Watkinson, president of the confederation, said last night that this sort of figure would mean an increase of around 10 per cent, part of it being wages and about 4.5 per cent coming through the Chancellor's promised tax benefits which were, of course, conditional upon a satisfactory wage deal being reached. This tax element by its nature would be non-inflationary.

He added that the CBI judgment was that if people got around this sum, they would just about keep pace with the cost of living.

The confederation is convinced that there will be a third phase, but that it will probably

not be settled until at least July.

Lord Watkinson had dinner earlier this week with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and other Cabinet ministers, and has made his position clear to the Government. He will outline the same facts to the Trades Union Congress at a private dinner next week.

The confederation, Lord Watkinson said, was determined that any pay deal should be one which meant British industry could pull back inflation to a rate compatible with its main competitors. This meant a rate of inflation of no more than 5 per cent by mid-1978.

The confederation is clearly not too keen on the idea of kiddy bargaining. It is felt that this might provide the same sort of escape hatch as productivity bargains did in Mr Heath's phase two, Lord Watkinson said. He hoped that by the May council, the CBI would have prepared its major discussion document on pay determination, which looks beyond phase three.

Prior attack on Bullock implications

By Malcolm Brown

Mr James Prior, the Opposition spokesman on employment, said yesterday that those behind the majority Bullock Report on industrial democracy were much more interested in undermining shareholders' rights and in extending union privileges, than they were in giving employees a say over the matters that affected them and in improving economic performance.

Speaking in London at a Financial Times conference on industrial relations, Mr Prior said that because the Government had stated its intention to press ahead with legislation based on majority Bullock, positive developments towards greater employee involvement were being set back. This was a tragedy.

"I do not believe that they will be able to impose such disruptive legislation in the face of the implacable hostility of those who are going to have to make it work. But as long as the threat is there, employers and unions are less willing to go ahead in devising and implementing schemes suited to their own circumstances."

Mr Pat Lowry, director of personnel, British Leyland, said: "The move from a system which is conflict based to something more constructive must commence at the place where the conflict has been bred. It is at that level that mutual trust must start to replace deep-seated suspicions."

More laid off in Jaguar dispute

By R. W. Shakespeare

More workers at Leyland's Jaguar car plant at Coventry have been laid off.

The Jaguar works, affecting both the assembly plant at Browns Lane, Coventry, and the nearby Radford components factory results from a strike by 80 internal truck drivers demanding reclassification into a higher pay grade.

Some 3,000 workers at the assembly plant are laid off. Yesterday 1,500 men who had been on strike from the Radford factory since the previous day, reported for work but were immediately sent home because there was no work for them. All Jaguar car production is halted.

At Halewood on Merseyside, 8,000 Ford car workers are laid off.

Engineers: earning authority and status in a commercial world

From Mr G. E. P. Constable

Sir, Mr Metz (April 14) urged that engineers should have more authority over their own—and the nation's—future, but though important, should this problem be our first priority? Authority and status, both elusive commodities, are seldom conferred as of right and usually have to be earned.

Our economic survival still depends upon exporting manufactured products which have to compete in terms of many factors including price, performance, delivery reliability and maintainability. All of these depend fundamentally upon design.

The 30-day tax return deadline

From Mr J. R. Ridges

Sir, Presumably all other taxpayers besides myself have received a request to fill in their income tax returns "within 30 days".

The form I received on April 9 was dated April 5, 1977. Can a road in your columns persuade the authorities to give the taxpayer more time to fill up his form correctly before being liable to a prosecution or fine?

Between now and May 6 some taxpayers are likely to be on holiday, abroad, or ill. Most taxpayers will have not yet received their dividend vouchers or bank statements from the bank for March and up to April 5. Most firms cannot be expected to notify their thousands of employees and pensioners when new credit has been made and the gross income of each one within a few days of the financial year end.

Similarly, tax accountants are unlikely to be able to complete the checks on all their clients' accounts with the necessary interviews within the 30 days.

Accuracy in this matter is more important than speed, but if the request for the return of the form within this short period is adhered to, will the authorities please be good enough to state that the request has "no binding force" which they modestly claim does not apply to the nine page notes which accompany the document.

Yours faithfully,
J. R. RIDGES,
16 Western Terrace,
Terrace,
New Earswick,
York YO3 8BW,
April 14.

Amazon tycoons please apply...

From Ms Jean Rothwell Holt

Sir, I am increasingly amazed by the advertisements for secretaries which appear in your columns. It is requested that most applicants need a sense of humour and I would think that one would help while reading through the advertisements.

It appears that in addition to a sense of humour secretaries today need dazzling personality, an ability to host luncheon parties and an immaculate appearance together

with an unflappable telephone manner and an ability to take over completely if necessary.

Perhaps it would be realistic for the companies concerned to advertise for budding Amazon tycoons and a corresponding increase in the offered salary to at least £8,000 pa.

Yours faithfully,
JEAN ROTHWELL HOLT,
Stoney Cottage,
Milton Abbas,
Dorset,
April 4.

The sticky-sided diminishing pound

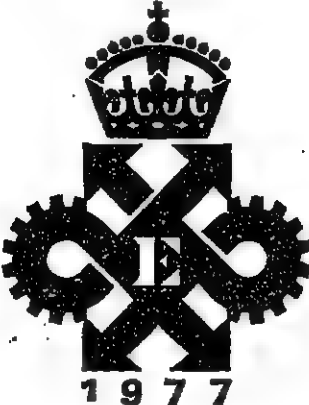
From Mr M. Eldridge

Sir, We are in the era of audio-visual aids. To remind us of the declining value of the purchasing pound may I suggest that, in future, when new bank notes are printed, their size should be reduced by the percentage by which the value of the pound has fallen during the previous 12 months?

As an additional advantage, while the pound note would

never completely disappear, one side should be made adhesive so that when in a year or two the pound note is only an inch square and the GPO charges us £1 to deliver a letter, we may dispense with stamps altogether?


Yours faithfully,
MARK ELDREDGE,
9 South Park Gardens,
Berkhamsed,
Hertfordshire,
March 31.



1977

THE QUEEN'S AWARD TO INDUSTRY

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For the UK, Edward W. M. Page, B.Sc., M.I.C.E., Taylor Woodrow Construction Ltd, 345 Ruislip Road, Southall, Middlesex. (Tel: 01-578 2366, Telex 24426)


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"Continuing good profits of overseas companies"

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- * Major recovery in results but efforts continue to improve still inadequate profits.
- * Much higher overseas profits demonstrate success of overseas investment policy.
- * Strong growth in export volume results from further building on sound foundations.

SUMMARY OF RESULTS

	1976	1975
	£	£
Sales - External	427,530,000	339,430,000
Profit before tax	24,610,000	11,630,000
Attributable profit	11,780,000	3,640,000

For each 25p Ordinary Share

Earnings	5.8p	2.9p
Dividends	4.493p	4.085p
Net assets	87p	68p

DISTRIBUTION OF ADDED VALUE

To Employees 71%	To Lenders 7%
To Shareholders 7%	To Governments 5%

For Maintenance and expansion of assets 10%

Copies of the full report and accounts available from the Secretary, The Delta Metal Company Limited, 1 Kingsway, London, WC2B 6XZ.

DELTA

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Burmah restores its balance sheet

After two years of unremittingly bad news, Burmah's balance sheet has been restored to a state of relative health. The company's last major loss, a £1.5m deficit, was reversed in the first half of 1976 when the company reported a profit of £1.5m. The group's last major loss, a £1.5m deficit, was reversed in the first half of 1976 when the company reported a profit of £1.5m.



Mr. Alastair Down, chairman of Burmah Oil, at last year's AGM.

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Capitalization £86.8m
Net assets £119.28m (£93.4m)
Borrowings £79.83m (£63.52m)
Pre-tax profit £24.6m (£11.63m)
Earnings per share 8.8p (2.9p)

Unilever More liquid than ever

Unilever is looking forward to further volume growth in the current year though no faster than the 31 per cent growth rate of the main economies it operates in against a real increase of more than double that last year.

But the key to any marked increase in profitability lies in improving European margins with this area still accounting for 72 per cent of capital employed. Last year the pre-tax return on capital employed rose from 10 to 16 per cent but that is a long way short of some of the other areas it operates in, noticeably Africa and the 21 per cent achieved across the business as a whole.

The balance sheet is as strong as ever with net liquid funds up from £268m to £406m last year. Certainly if last year's rise in net working capital of £273m is any guide that sort of muscle will be needed to cover capital spending half as much again at £348m and already booming assets have been added. Meanwhile the CCA arithmetic has thrown up a £113m cost of sales adjustment against almost nothing last year indicating that the group made something from stock profits last year and if raw material prices go on rising there will be another element of stock profits in the current year.

Accounts: 1976 (1975)
Capitalization £1.816m
Net assets £1.786m (£1.384m)
Borrowings £243m (£188m)
Pre-tax profit £602m (£526m)
Earnings per share 76.1p (38.23p)

Carrington Veyella Cutting the gearing

Carrington Veyella's shares dropped by a penny to 28½p yesterday, a move which seems a somewhat curious reaction to the long-awaited move to sort out the group's high gearing and its dependence on short and medium term loans. But then this first move, as it emerges, is a case of *faute de mieux*, the dividend for the year is forecast to rise by a minimum of 10 per cent, but that apart there is nothing to excite shareholders.

The prospective dividend may well be comfortably covered by the dividend for the year, but the company's operations in an industry where volatility is too much the rule for the directors to have been tempted into profitability. And any issue by way of rights would have had to be made at a much bigger discount and, by implication, with much more dilution built in.

As it is, a rights issue was out of the question and the placing has been made with an ease which, with the "encouraging" pointers on profits for the year, says something for the prospects for the company. With Carrington Veyella's balance sheet ahead of the issue more or less unchanged from the December year-end, the placing will bring net borrowings down from almost 85 per cent to under 64 per cent of shareholders' funds, and that and increasing cash flow should leave the group comfortably placed.

However, that does not mean an end to the group's attempts at funding. In fact a straight rights issue in a year or so now looks considerably more likely.

Business Diary: Jesse Boot boys rule, OK?

When Jesse Boot, the founder of Boots the Chemists, wanted to advertise the need to hire a brass band to parade the streets.

Today, however, it's all much more subdued for the present chairman and chief executive, Dr Gordon Hobday, who has never relished publicity and has grown to like it even less.

Twice in recent years he has led his team into the spotlight, once to bid for drug manufacturers Glaxo, and once for the House of Fraser stores group—both times to be told by the Monopolies Commission that the deals were not in the public interest.

Yesterday, however, Hobday and members of his team steeled themselves like little lads screwing up the courage to swallow Boots' castor oil to leave Nottingham for a rare public visit to London in order to discuss management changes in this, the firm's centenary year.

Hobday, a lifelong Bootsman and research chemist is to remain as chairman but is to retire as chief executive, on May 1, handing over his duties to no fewer than three others.

Primus inter pares, to slip into prescription latin, to be Douglas Appleby who will move over from being finance director to managing director of the Group, The Boots Company.

Alan Spencer, the operations director, will become managing director of Boots the Chemists, the retailer subsidiary which provides two-thirds of the profits.

Lastly, Dr Peter Main, an R & D man (absent yesterday), will become chief executive of the industrial division which provides the other third and is



Dr. Gordon Hobday, chairman of Boots.



Douglas Appleby, finance director of Boots.



Alan Spencer, operations director of Boots.

If the chairman says it's a centenary, then it's a centenary: Left to right, Boots' Douglas Appleby, Gordon Hobday and Alan Spencer in London yesterday. Pictures by David Jones.

still gaining on Spencer's patch. It is more complicated to describe the Boots centenary which Hobday has declared this year. The company celebrated its 50th anniversary in 1938, a year before Hobday joined.

That, however, was the anniversary of the legal foundation of the company. The being royal jubilee year and the year of Hobday's retirement, 1968 has been discarded in favour of 1977, the centenary of Jesse Boot's taking control of the business started by his mum.

Talking of mums, Jesse—who died as Lord Trent in 1931—later operated Boots with his wife Florence as personnel manager and buyer.

Although Hobday now reckons that one in three of the country's women visits a Boots shop every week, there is now not a woman to be seen on either the group board or on any of the five management committees.

With manpower of nearly

Hobday has, however, preserved one tradition. He has concentrated Boots R & D on anti-rheumatism drugs and helped develop Brufen for use against rheumatoid arthritis—the disease that crippled Jesse Boot.

Wegstein, Swiss-born head of management consultants Knight, Wegstein, was called in during 1974 by a transport ministry no longer prepared to go on footing the bill with its radical change. After an 18-month study into just half the business he recommended changes yielding a 20 per cent cut in both deficit and manpower over five years, during which, to sweeten the unions, there would be no compulsory redundancy and little new recruitment.

Although formally appointed by the railway management, Wegstein took care to woo the men, not through the union direct but through the works councils elected by workers and paid by management to represent manpower interests

in this as in other German industries. He found them surprisingly ready to accept change and to change managers, particularly middle management at headquarters who were particularly conservative.

The men soon took on board the message that no government could so meaningfully cut costs of the order, Wegstein says, and accepted that it was a case of rationalization or amputation.

Managers, however, were personally offended by proposals for change which they felt they should have thought of first, and would be responsible for implementing.

The Chicago-based Knight organization, which with a turnover of more than £40m a year, claims third place after McKinsey & Booz Allen in the world management consultancy league, has important government-related contracts in Britain but not so far with British Rail. But Wegstein did talk to BR chairman, Peter Parker, last autumn and expects to do so again.

He concedes that there could be a difference between Britain and Germany in that the railway workers there, under heavy criticism from the public like those here for inefficiency and high deficits, will listen to ideas for change.

There's an amusing Freudian slip in Leslie Frewin's new book *Shareholder Rights* (W. H. Allen, £3.75) in which he advises anybody plotting to take over a public company to build up their information with the help of "microfiche" techniques.

Phase three: how to relax without losing control

The Scottish TUC has rejected a mineworkers' call for a resumption of free collective bargaining. But the debate on what exactly is to follow the present stage of wage control goes on. Caroline Atkinson examines some of the difficulties involved.

has said publicly that local union negotiators could be given the power to determine wage settlements in any third year of pay policy and the Chancellor has indicated that Mr Jones' views are very close to his own.

Kitty bargaining, where limits are set for negotiating groups and which was first floated by Mr Albert Booth, the Employment Secretary, a little under three weeks ago, seems at first glance a way of resolving the needs for simplicity and flexibility and for an economy-wide limit on earnings which nevertheless allows local bargaining. It is probably still the preferred solution of the Government, although it has come under increasing fire from the unions who fear that it will set workers against workers. Instead of against management.

The union opposition to the idea gives a hint of the problems left hidden by the catch phrase. Who will determine the size of the kitty? If it is laid down in national agreement, the scope for local bargainers to improve the lot of their members will be severely limited and will depend on their ability to make a case for receiving a larger share of the kitty than some other group of workers.

That leads to the problem of the definition of the kitty group. Many companies at present negotiate with a multitude of different unions with different interests. A "company" kitty would be very difficult to divide up in, for example, British Leyland. However, a division by normal negotiating

groups would probably be workable. The other issue which would have to be settled nationally if kitty bargaining is to function as part of an incomes policy is the coverage of the kitty. It is unlikely that a kitty of the size which would be acceptable to Mr Healey would seem adequate to union negotiators.

For a large part of the difficulty in reaching agreement on a third round of pay control comes simply from the fact that a policy must aim to keep wage increases below those which would result from free collective bargaining and below the present 16.7 per cent inflation rate, while resistance to a policy comes from a natural desire to boost incomes badly hit by a combination of inflation and wage control.

The Chancellor has been careful to avoid mention of any figure for an acceptable level of wage increases in the next pay round. The assumption in the budget statement of an average earnings increase in 1977-78, the same magnitude as occurred under the present round gives a good clue, however. That increase will probably be less than 10 per cent.

An end result of 10 per cent for the coming year would require a much lower "norm" if there are to be higher awards for some workers discriminated against under the earlier policies. And a norm of 10 per cent would still be too low to compensate for inflation even in the year of the policy.

It is clear, therefore, that an agreement which would truly satisfy the Chancellor's budget requirements for a phase three would lead to lower settlements than those which union leaders are now saying they will accept. An agreement of some kind is, however, almost certain. It will probably come by the end of June in time to allow the amendments to the Finance Bill which are necessary to give the conditional tax reliefs. The question remains whether it will lead to a smaller rise in incomes than would have happened without such an agreement.

There is little doubt that the two rounds of pay policy so far have restricted settlements, both in the private and the public sectors, but it is extremely difficult to forecast what would happen to wages in the absence of a third round of policy. Most forecasts have estimated themselves with a guess at 15 per cent—rather more than the 10 per cent which is consistent with the budget forecasts but well below the 25 per cent which would result from a successful attempt to catch up with price rises.

There are several factors which would limit the tendency of money wages to follow past price increases in the coming year. The first is the scale of strict controls of the money supply. Large wage settlements would still be possible, and would benefit those

who won them, but they would lead ultimately to fewer jobs. The psychological effect on union bargainers of the present controls on money may be more important than their economic effect, especially in the short term when changes in the velocity of circulation can accommodate larger changes in nominal gross domestic product than in the money supply.

Another factor is the high level of unemployment and the still depressed state of the labour market. The power workers' union has called for wage rises of 11 to 14 per cent, which must be in part a reflection of the present weak demand position.

The recent education of union leaders, and their members in the connection between high money wage increases, faster inflation, a depreciating pound and an eventual erosion of the increases won would be bound to moderate their wage demands.

Finally, the tax cuts announced in the Budget, and the probable easing of the rate of inflation after this summer, will boost real incomes and thus could lead to more moderate wage demands than now seem likely.

The biggest danger of a free for all, and thus the strongest argument in favour of some kind of nationally agreed pay policy, is that large, widely publicized deals won by strong unions in the pay year would lead to an attempt by all unions to catch up. An agreement which came gradually to be broken through the pay year would at least have the advantage of securing low settlements in the early part of the year.

It is another great advantage of public sector wages. An incomes policy for the whole economy makes it easier for the Government to negotiate low settlements with its own employees, although the cost limits system now imposes a discipline on central and local government wages even without a formal pay policy.

Kingdom industry to enter this field could present the diesel makers with serious capacity and supply constraints. Already there is concern about insufficient domestic capacity for the production of cylinder heads and blocks, which has prompted an urgent NEDO study.

Airing of these common problems within the working party is seen as valuable, apart from the more important aspect of bringing a sensitive industry into a closer relationship with government. But whether a detailed plan for the future will emerge from the group remains in doubt.

Edward Townsend

Any moves by the United

Gardner has also qualified for support under the scheme for its foreign expansions and, in total, projects worth £46m have been helped with government funds.

Generally, however, the industry is hostile towards state aid and suspicions have been aggravated by the knowledge that the National Enterprise Board has been drawing up its own plans for it.

Another aspect of diesel production that the Government wants to see explored is the potential for diesel-powered cars. At present, only 1 per cent of world car output is equipped with diesels.

Any moves by the United

Industrial strategy 7: Diesel engines More heavy work to be done

United States should be of concern to British manufacturers. At home, the main investments of recent times have been made by Perkins, Cummins Engine and CAV, the Lucas diesel injection subsidiary. Cummins has won large government grants for its £30m Scottish expansion programme which will create 1,200 new jobs by 1980 and double output to 90 heavy duty engines a day.

Perkins is spending about £15m on new facilities, while CAV, one of the world's leading independent suppliers of injection equipment, is investing £35m, including a slice of public money obtained under the accelerated projects scheme.

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Kingdom industry to enter this field could present the diesel makers with serious capacity and supply constraints. Already there is concern about insufficient domestic capacity for the production of cylinder heads and blocks, which has prompted an urgent NEDO study.

Airing of these common problems within the working party is seen as valuable, apart from the more important aspect of bringing a sensitive industry into a closer relationship with government. But whether a detailed plan for the future will emerge from the group remains in doubt.

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Business appointments

Royal Dutch supervisory board names

Mr G. A. Wagner and Mr L. Wormser are to be proposed for appointment to the supervisory board of Royal Dutch Petroleum on May 12. Mr Wagner is retiring on June 30 as president of Royal Dutch Petroleum and chairman of the committee of managing directors of Royal Dutch/Shell. Mr P. M. van Doornaal and Mr William McChesney Martin, Jr, are retiring from the board.

Mr K. G. Smith, pensions manager of the British Steel Corporation, is to become chairman of The National Association of Pension Funds from May 1.



Mr James Sanger, new finance director of James Burroughs.

Mr David Stevens has been elected deputy chairman of Drayton Consolidated Trust.

Mr J. F. G. Emms, Mr J. Linbourn and Mr C. R. Harris have been elected to the board of Estates House Investment Trust.

Mr James J. Johnson has been appointed vice-president of marketing for the Singer Co.

Mr Christopher Hayman and Mr James Sanger join the board of James Burroughs. Mr Sanger as finance director.

Mr W. G. Peopie has been appointed a director of Peak Investments. Mr J. Bood and Mr W. T. Bowden have resigned from the board, but remain directors of Peak Traders.

Mr W. Wilson Evans becomes deputy managing director of J. & W. Kerr Group, remaining financial director. Mr John Hendrie, a director and secretary of the group, has been made, in addition, company secretary of all group subsidiaries. Mr Peter Berrie, a group director and a director of J. & W. Kerr Fabrications, becomes also managing director of J. & W. Kerr Engineering.

American GNP rate doubles, but pace of inflation also accelerates

From Frank Vogl
Washington, April 20

America's economy grew at a far faster rate in the first quarter of this year than was widely predicted; but, as was expected, the rate of inflation also increased.

Real gross national product (GNP) rose at exactly twice the annual rate recorded in the final quarter of last year, with an advance of 5.2 per cent, according to preliminary seasonally adjusted data.

The GNP chain price index, which the United States Commerce Department considers to be the most accurate inflation measure in the GNP figures, rose at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 6.6 per cent, against a 5.7 per cent rate recorded in the previous quarter.

Today's figures lend some

support both to President Carter's claim of last week that the economy does not need additional stimulus and to his recently announced anti-inflation campaign. Leading economists, including Dr James Tobin of Yale University and Dr Milton Friedman of the University of Chicago, have stated this week that the anti-inflation strategy is too weak and will not work.

But today, Mr Michael Blumenthal, the Secretary of the Treasury, defended the aim of bringing the inflation rate down to 4 per cent by late 1979. He told a congressional committee: "We have set a moderate, but achievable target."

This is particularly so because contrary to the hopes of some government economists, the new figures show that personal consumption expenditures rose in

the last quarter no faster than in the final quarter of 1976—up \$34,800m against a rise of \$33,500m.

Moreover, the pattern of consumer spending in the first quarter has some disturbing elements. Spending on non-durable goods was up by only \$7,700m, compared to a rise that was twice as great in the previous three months. Spending on motor cars showed a rise ten times as high as that seen in the previous quarter, at \$10,500m.

A modestly encouraging aspect of the new figures is that business fixed investment showed an increase three times as large as that recorded in the final quarter of 1976. The increase, amounting to \$7,500m in the first quarter, is still, however, below what most economists see as necessary.

Call to scrap isoglucose tax proposal

From David Cross
Brussels, April 20

A British company which has invested £8m in a plant to manufacture isoglucose today made a last attempt to persuade the European Community to abandon a swinging production tax on the new natural sweetener.

At a press conference in Brussels, Lord Jellicoe, chairman of Tunnel Refineries, of Greenwich, said that the proposed £28 a tonne tax would make the production of isoglucose "totally uneconomic".

The planned levy on isoglucose is part of the European Community's annual farm price review. The Community's sugar beet producers, who fear competition from isoglucose, favour the tax.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Regional newspaper rebound pushes S Pearson by £10m

By Ray Maughan

Boosted by a powerful regional newspaper recovery, strong book publishing interests and further growth from its Doukton glassware subsidiary, S. Pearson & Son pushed pre-tax profits ahead by almost £10m to £28.54m in 1976.

The Whitehall Trust, Pearson's financial services arm, which takes in Lazard's merchant bank, was the only division to stall. Its drop from £5.96m to £5.56m at the pre-interest level, however, is more than accounted for by the sale of A. W. Bain Holdings which meant a \$45,000 hole in income. Embankment Trust, bought at the tail end of the year, will contribute income of £500,000 in a full 12 months while the 1.46m shares acquired in part-consideration for Bain in international trader, Inchcape, will add a further £250,000 so the income gap is not quite filled.

Pride of place should go to Pearson Longman, the newspaper and publishing subsidiary, comprising the Financial Times, Westminster Press, Penguin Publishing and Ladybird Books. Trading profits increased by £10m to £19.87m. So S. Pearson's 63.56 per cent share yields a pre-interest contribution of £12.02m against £6.04m. Longman Holdings increased by £3m to £8m while the subsidiary which owns the Financial Times newspaper made £2.45m against £1.08m.

The contribution of the wholly owned Doukton subsidiary, which also takes in sand-



Lord Cowdray, chairman of S. Pearson.

tary ware, ceramics and electrical engineering, increased from £7.08m to £10.83m.

The current trend throughout the group is described as promising and all divisions have enjoyed a good first quarter.

Shares in Pearson Longman jumped 6p yesterday to 123p where a maximum permitted gross total dividend of 8.28 per share yields 14.6 per cent.

The holding company is paying a second interim dividend of 6.18p per share bringing the gross total up to 9.35p. The shares rose 4p to 136p to give a yield of 14.6 per cent.

Travis & Arnold takes off in second-half

By Ashley Druker

Just slightly ahead after six months from £1.65m to £1.81m pre-tax, Travis & Arnold appears to have been unduly cautious in September. Though still going well the board looked to second-half profits matching those of the opening leg. In the event this builders' and plumbers' merchant and timber importer turns in taxable profits jumping 55 per cent from £2.73m, for the preceding 10 months, to a best-ever £4.23m for the whole of 1976. Its previous best was as far back as 1974 at £4.16m.

Increasing the comparative figures to a 12-month basis, the 1976 pre-tax profit shows a climb of 29 per cent. On a similar basis of comparison, sales increased by 21 per cent to £43.09m. Earnings for ordinary are 23.5p against 14.8p a share (for the shorter period).

It pays a total gross dividend of 3.98p, for 10 months, to 5.25p. This represents an increase of 10 per cent over the annual rate paid for the previous year and is the maximum permitted.

Both sales and profits for the group, which distributes timber, building materials, plumbing and heating equipment to the construction industry and allied trades, were at a higher level than in any previous year.

Hopes for an increased level of activity in the housebuilding and improvement markets were set back by the sharp rise in interest rates.

The shares rose 2p to 87p in what the market considers to be a belated upward response.

Forecasters see year of low demand

By Melvyn Westlake

Post-Budget projections of most independent economic forecasters point to a year of low output and consumption. Economic growth between 1976 and 1977 is estimated to lie between 0.7 per cent at the most pessimistic, and 2.5 per cent at the most optimistic.

Private consumption is predicted by most forecasters to fall. At the same time, inflation is broadly placed between 13 and 15 per cent. London Business School take the gloomiest view of inflation and have revised upwards their previous forecast of price increases during the year.

The most encouraging aspect of present forecasts is the projection for the current account of the balance of payments, which are now seen by the majority of forecasters to be in surplus during 1977, although there have been some downward revisions of export growth during the period.

FORECASTS FOR THE BRITISH ECONOMY

	Year 1977/Year 1976					2nd half 1977/2nd half 1976	
	NIESR (Feb)	LBS (Apr)	H (Apr)	HG (Mar)	P & D (Apr)	Treasury (Mar)	NIESR (Feb)
Consumption	-0.6	-1.2	1.0	1.8	-0.4	-1.0	-2.7
Private investment inc.							
housebuilding	3.3	-2.2	4.5	4.2	-0.4	1.0	2.5
Public investment inc.							
housebuilding	-9.2	-12.0	-8.2	-8.1	-8.8	-7.0	-9.2
Public authorities consumption	-0.2	-0.3	0.0	0.8	1.7	0.0	-1.9
Exports	5.4	5.7	8.8	7.4	7.7	5.5	5.5
Imports	3.2	1.9	5.2	3.9	5.8	2.0	2.7
Stockbuilding (£m) Year 1977	188	71	470	200	335	300	354
Gross domestic product after adjustment to factor cost	0.9	0.7	2.4	2.5	1.5	1.5	1.8
Inflation forecast	14.2	15.7	13.7	13.5	13.4	13*	12.2*
Balance of payments current account deficit (£m) Year 1977	+388	+1743	500	+800	300	---	+1096

NIESR National Institute of Economic and Social Research
LBS London Business School
H Henley Centre
HG Hoare Govett, as provided by dataSTREAM
P & D Phillips & Drew

* Fourth qtr. 1977 on fourth qtr. 1976
Treasury forecasts that the current account will be in balance during second half of 1977, with £500m surplus in first half of 1978.
All forecasts are in constant prices, seasonally adjusted and at annual rates. The stockbuilding and balance of payments forecasts in the second half 1977/second half 1976 section are forecasts for the second half of 1977 multiplied by two. Stockbuilding is in 1970 prices.
The forecasts by the Treasury, the NIESR and LBS are based on the assumption of unchanged policies. The forecasts by H, HG and P & D assume changes in policy. For details readers should refer to original sources. Categories in different forecasts are not completely comparable, but differences are minor. Differences in result also reflect difference in assumptions, model constructions and date at which work performed.
The month in which work was published is given in brackets. Forecasts published by the Treasury twice yearly; NIESR, four times a year; LBS, three times a year; H, HG and P & D revise their forecasts every month.

"A specially favourable year"

from Mr. Julian Faber's statement to shareholders

I am pleased that this year — my first in reporting to many new shareholders — has been so successful. We have grown and prospered. In our principal activity — UK Insurance Broking — gross premiums handled were approximately £650 million, 70 per cent in foreign currencies. The Group's profits have increased by 60 per cent, from £10.15 million to £16.32 million.

1976 was a year specially favourable to insurance brokers although in part for reasons of which no one can be proud. The decline in the value of sterling increased profits disproportionately; inflation continues to raise insured values; and very high interest rates available on cash balances added further to our profits.

Some increase in profit would, therefore, have occurred if our business had just stood still; but I am glad to say that it grew in virtually all the several areas in which we are interested, each contributing in varying degrees to our profit.

Thus, our brokerage increased by over 30 per cent. Our insurance company, the Sovereign, reversed its previous profit decline; our Lloyd's and Company agency business produced substantially greater profits. Our managed syndicates at Lloyd's accepted a record number of new names. Our associates, notably Morgan

Grenfell, and those overseas in South Africa, Australia and Canada had a particularly good year. Indeed, every area of our activity proved to be buoyant.

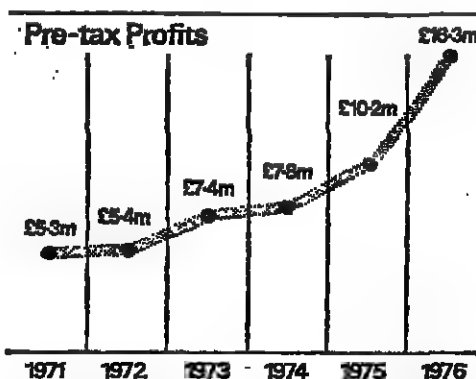
The year was notable for two events, the first being our acquisition of the freehold of Ten Trinity Square — the old Port of London Authority building. Our ambition to own freeholds for both our London and Country Head Offices has thus been finally realized. We expect to occupy the building on May 28th.

Secondly, we became a Public Company with shares quoted on The Stock Exchange. In the event, the uncertainty of the market compelled us to introduce the shares rather than

to make an Offer for Sale. This unusual course was not what we would have chosen though in retrospect I have no doubt that, aided by our professional advisers, we made the right decision. An orderly market in the shares was created as was our aim.

As International Brokers we are tied to no particular market, nor are our fortunes linked with a few insurance companies. Nevertheless we have noticed the harm already done to the London market by the proposals to nationalize some major insurance companies. This damage would be far more severe and indeed would be irreversible if such ideas were pursued to fruition.

Our excellent results are attributable directly to the hard work and loyalty of the members of our staff. While we have been and are being successful in providing for most of them the working conditions which they deserve, under present conditions we are not permitted to reward merit. This applies throughout the range of salaries but particularly in the middle and higher ranges where we are sustaining attacks on our staff from interests abroad which naturally seek to acquire valuable skills such as many of our staff possess. Ultimately there comes a time when appeals to loyalty are not enough. This 'brain drain' will undoubtedly become more serious without further incentives and lower personal taxation here.



Willis Faber Limited

54 Leadenhall Street, London EC3P 3AX

Copies of the Report and Accounts for 1976 are available from The Secretary.

Marshall Cavendish on way back

Making up some leeway at midyear, up nearly a third to £19.2m, Marshall Cavendish finished 1976 with a rise from £22.8m to £28.8m pre-tax. But this is still below the peak £27.2m in 1972 for this one-time glamour share. The group publishes magazines and books and large format paperbacks. Turnover in the year remained steady at £12.85m against £12.04m.

Earnings a share grew from 5.36p to 6.89p. It pays a total gross dividend lifted from 4.49p to 6.01p. This restores the payout to that paid for 1972. The total cash dividend for the year is covered 1.77 times.

Meanwhile the company continues to grow, the board says. Its range of publishing activities is being expanded, particularly in the hard-book field. Without hazarding a forecast as yet on the outcome for 1977, the opening quarter indicates a "reasonably" successful year.

MHL trebles

Manufacturers Hanover Limited, the London-based merchant banking subsidiary of Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company, more than trebled its profits last year. Pre-tax profits were up from £14.8m to £45.8m, while deposits rose from £51.1m to £92.5m. The bank managed or co-managed syndicated loans worth \$9,446m (up from \$5,211m) and capital issues worth \$1,192m (up from \$416m). Gross assets at the year end were £117m compared to £89.9m the year before.

Southern Cons ships

Although turnover of Southern Constructors (Holdings) rose from £9.2m to £10.73m in 1976, pre-tax profits fell from £554,000 to £401,000. However, the total gross payment is going up from 1.06p to 1.35p, which has been approved by the Treasury in the context of last year's rights issue. Profitability in the second half-year was seriously affected by the wet weather which continued into the early part of 1977. Nevertheless, the group has a "reasonable" order book.

Authority Investments

Referring to the fact that the accounts of Authority Investments for 1976 have not yet been published, the board of Authority reports that it has been undertaking a large-scale valuation of properties and developments which has entailed more work than was expected. The accounts, however, should be published within the next six weeks at the latest.

J. Bibby and Sons Limited
proudly announces a second Queen's Award to its subsidiary

Henry Cooke Limited

Queen's Award Winners 1973 and 1977

Henry Cooke first won the Queen's Award for Technology in 1973 with the world's first Government-approved steam sterilisable paper for medical packaging.

Now, in Silver Jubilee Year, Henry Cooke has been similarly recognised for another speciality paper designed specifically for the textile transfer printing industry.

Henry Cooke
Europe's Leading Specialist Paper Mill

Henry Cooke Limited,
Waterhouse Mills, Beetham, Milnthorpe,
Cumbria LA7 7AR
Tel: Milnthorpe 3363/475. Telex: 65143 HYCO.G.

A member of the Paper and Converted Products Division of J. Bibby and Sons Limited.

Bernard Wardle

Highlights from the Annual General Meeting held on Wednesday 20th April 1977

1977 — compared with same periods in 1976

FIRST QUARTER
* Sales up. * Profits up.

PROSPECTS
* Significant improvements forecast for first half year results.
* Unrealistic at this stage to anticipate second half year results.

The Bernard Wardle Group — manufacturers of PVC sheet and film; vinyl coated fabrics and felts; PVC and polyethylene foams; fabricators of plastics; moulders and mould makers.

Copies of the 1976 Annual Report and Accounts can be obtained from The Secretary, Bernard Wardle and Company Limited, 82 King Street, Knidford, Cheshire WA16 6PF.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Small buying on base rate hopes

For the first time this week, equities made headway as the base rate fell to 10.5 per cent, the lowest level in the field to date.

Early sentiment was helped by a belated response to Hawker Siddeley's bullish figures of the previous day and the imminent prospect of another round of base-rate cuts by the clearing banks. There was even talk of another small reduction in M.L.R. this week, though a majority would be surprised by such a move.

Aeronautical & General Instruments sprang to life after the announcement of a number of share stakes taken as the possible prelude to a bid. The share closed 6p up at 58p on a strong speculative demand but the group says that it has no reason to believe an approach is imminent.

Though interest dwindled as the session progressed, it was held firm in late trading on the news that the Scottish TUC would accept some form of further pay restraint. Having gained 4.2p by midday, the FT index closed 4.4 at 412.5. Glita, too, benefited from the prospect of lower interest rates with long dates up half a point after a steady session and "shorts" between one-quarter and three-eighths up after a two-way trade had developed at the higher levels.

Particularly active were the 3 per cent 1982, which rose three-eighths to £141, the 12 1/2

per cent 1992, where the gain was three-quarters to £140, and the 9 1/2 per cent 1981, which put on eleven-sixteenths, for a close of £100.0.

Of the industrial leaders, the strongest performers were Hawker Siddeley which put on another 10p to 540p after its figures and Unilever with a rise of 6p to 458p, which stemmed from the chairman's remarks on prospects and the group's strong liquid position. Speculative demand was directed into a number of favourite stocks with Gallenkamp gaining no less than 26p to 288p in the hope of another takeover move. United Scientific

up 6p to 101p. Others gaining ground for similar reasons were Thomas J. Bourne 4p to 38p and commodity group Gill & Duffus which put on another 3p to 227p in spite of its earlier denial. In a thin market with bid hopes helping Common Brothers to a rise of 18p to 243p and other firm spots to be found in Walter Runciman 4p to 130 and British & Commonwealth 3p to 289p. Store issues featured Burton "A" which gained 4p to 74p and House of Fraser 2p to 94p. Adams Food were 5p to the good at 28p after minority terms from the Irish Dairy Board. Elsewhere in the food sector, P. & G. gained another 3p to 119p, making 14p 5p for this week, in the continuing hope that Tiger Oats will raise its 30 per cent stake or make an all-out bid.

After figures, food retailer Wm Low gained 4p for a close of 86p. The continuing interest in hotel issues left Rowton 9p ahead at 110p and De Vere 3p further 10p up at 149p. Building industry shares saw Travis & Arnold put on 2p to 87p after figures and civil engineer A. Monk firm at 68p after news of a share stake. Interest in the last-mentioned was reported here yesterday. Results dominated a firm papers pitch where Marshall

Cavendish rose 3p to 44p after its statement. Collett, Dickenson 2p to 44p, and Pearson Longman 3p to 123p. S. Pearson, whose figures came out at the same time, rose 4p to 156p. The recent strength of glass shares was reflected in a rise of 10p to 117p for Redfearn National.

The feature of a comparatively dull oil sector was a smaller than expected loss from Burmah where the shares shot up 7p to 69p after the statement. After hours, ICI went a little better among "blue chips" and English & Caledonian Investment jumped 19p to 80p after news of a bid approach. Oils rose a penny or two, including Burmah after the figures.

Latest dividends

Company	Ord div	Year ago	Pay date	Year's total	Prev year
Adams Foods (10p) Int	0.57	1.24	1/6	1.36	1.24
Aquascutum (5p) Fin	1.36	1.62	28/5	3.23	3.25
Audiovisual (10p) Fin	5.21	4.74	1/5	5.44	7.67
Besibell (25p) Fin	0.65	0.6	1/7	1.2	1.1
G. M. Callender (10p) Fin	2.96	2.6	27/5	3.93	3.57
Claydon, Son (50p) Fin	1.53	1.39	30/5	2.92	2.66
Clive Discount (20p) Fin	4.06	3.69	—	4.08	3.68
Collett, Dickenson (10p) Fin	2.87	2.26	—	4.49	4.08
Currys (25p) Fin	2.73	2.48	15/7	5.48	4.98
Delta Metal (25p) Fin	0.82	0.53	9/6	1.87	0.97
Eagle Star (25p) Fin	1.65	1.5	—	4.9	—
Finlay Packaging (5p) Fin	2.4	2	25/5	4.4	4
Wm Low (20p) Int	4.1	4.14	—	6.1	5.4
Martin-Black (25p) Fin	3.61	3.47	3/5	5.36	4.87
S. Pearson (25p) Sec Int	1.53	1.39	1/7	1.02	0.92
Pearson Longman (25p) Sec Int	0.7	0.63	—	3.41	2.89
Sun Life Ass (5p) Int	2.79	2.02	—	1.35	1.23
Sunlight Service (10p) Fin	1.5	0.25	16/6	2.0	0.23
Sunlight Service (25p) Fin	2.92	2.03	—	3.9	2.32
Travis & Arnold (25p) Fin	0.82	0.71	25/6	1.73	1.73
Wadham Straker (10p) Fin	1.29	1.28	—	1.94	1.76
Ward White (25p) Fin	—	—	—	—	—
Marshall C (10p) Fin	—	—	—	—	—
Kalamazoo (10p) Int	—	—	—	—	—
Joseph Holt (25p) Fin	—	—	—	—	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.54. *For nine months. †For 10 months.

Raine in final bid for Sheffield Brick

By Victor Felstead

In its fight to take over the Sheffield Brick Group, Raine Engineering Industries is raising its bid. The new terms are four ordinary shares, plus 35p cash, for every ordinary share in Sheffield Brick Group, Raine Engineering Industries in accordance with the 1976 Companies Act, a major part of which came into force on Monday.

Ready Mixed's stake is clearly aimed to protect its interest, as Staveley has important time works, while Staveley in turn is protecting itself by holding a 9.9 per cent stake in its abraded competitor, Barton & Sons. It has been known for some time that there was a significant holding in Barton, but until yesterday it was not known who was the owner.

The spate of announcements by companies informing the Stock Exchange of holdings between 5 and 10 per cent, which must be declared, under the new Act by May 5 continued:

Fuller Smith & Turner, the brewers announced that Whitebread held 16.4 per cent of the A ordinary and 3.28 per cent of the combined "A" and "B" votes. The total value of the higher offer is £397,000 which gives an exit p/e ratio of 13.3x based on profits for 1976, or 11.3x if the exceptional loss of £29,000 is excluded. Raine points out that accepting shareholders will receive a significant rise in annual income for both 1977 and 1978. The increased offer values Sheffield's shares higher than the best level reached since 1972. Raine is forecasting pre-tax profits of over £330,000 for the year to June 30 next, compared with £752,000.

RMC and Staveley in 'protective' stakes

By Nicholas Hirst

Ready Mixed Concrete yesterday announced a 7.16 per cent stake in Staveley Industries in accordance with the 1976 Companies Act, a major part of which came into force on Monday.

Ready Mixed's stake is clearly aimed to protect its interest, as Staveley has important time works, while Staveley in turn is protecting itself by holding a 9.9 per cent stake in its abraded competitor, Barton & Sons. It has been known for some time that there was a significant holding in Barton, but until yesterday it was not known who was the owner.

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Cities Investment Trust (9.95 per cent), Scottish & Mercantile Investment Co (7.63 per cent), Lancashire & London Investment Trust (7.81 per cent), Fashion & General Investment Trust (7.02 per cent), Ocean Wilsons (3.84 per cent) and finally Latham Investment (6.0 per cent).

Downs Surgical revealed that BOC International holds 9.5 per cent.

Valor, makers of gas heaters, cookers and car parts, said that a Jersey Investment trust, Jersey Sports Stadium, had an 8 per cent holding. There has been no increase in the holding recently.

Hamillborne had been notified that Mr Denis Barkway, a financier, held 12.5 per cent. Energy Finance & General Trust holds 12.5 per cent.

Pease Property Corporation has been notified of a 5.6 per cent by Sun Alliance, the insurance group.

Nottingham Manufacturing holds 10.9 per cent in fellow Marks & Spencer supplier, Bostwick Holdings.

A Monk notified holdings of 7 per cent by the Norwich Union and 5.63 per cent by the Prudential.

Debenhams have been informed of a nominee holding of 19.31 per cent in a class of preference shares under the name N. C. Lombard Street Nominees.

Crane plans to fox US Fruehauf Corp

Crane Fruehauf is the trailer group that has had a reprieve from the bid attentions of the United States Fruehauf Corporation, but, as is the way with reprieves, the respite is temporary.

So the full accounts from Crane do not, and cannot say anything that Mr Angus Murray, the recently appointed chairman and his colleagues, could say about the current year.

The respite came last November when the Monopolies Commission stepped in under merger provisions of the Fair Trading Act, 1973. The American group already has a one third stake in the British group. Crane, advised by Hill Samuel, duly leaped its 27p a share bid. The last word so far on this particular subject was in March when it was reported that Mr Roy Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices, had agreed to extend the time allowed for the Commission to weigh the proposed merger from April 9 to July 9. The Commission had pleaded "special reasons" for delay. Hence the need for Mr Murray to keep some of his powder dry. With his eye on the stated intentions of Fruehauf Corporation to make a further bid "it is regretted that no further forecasts of the results for 1977 can be made at present". However the chairman reaffirms his earlier opinion that



Mr Angus Murray, chairman of Crane Fruehauf.

profits will be "substantially in excess of those for 1976". Last year's figures were encouraging but the message from the managing director, Mr Derek Marsh, is "must try harder." Up jumped pre-tax profits from £111,000 to £151m, beating November's promise of at least £1.4m but turnover was as much as £47.66m against £33.85m. The comment from the managing director is that the spurt came in the second half, but profits do not yet match turnover.

BASF's higher return leads to increase in dividend

From Peter Norman

On the strength of sharply higher profits last year, BASF AG, the Ludwigshafen-based chemical group, will increase its dividend to DM8.50 per DM50 share from the DM7 paid for 1975.

As well as the increased dividend, which will cost the company DM301m (about £71.6m) against DM233m the previous year, BASF announced that it will pay DM55m (DM40m) into published reserves, suggesting that parent company net profit after tax rose to DM356m last year from DM273m in 1975. In today's announcement the company also disclosed that its group net earnings after tax and minority interests climbed to DM607m in 1976 from DM575m. BASF had already announced sharp increases of 48 per cent and 65 per cent in parent company and group pre-tax profits to DM823m and DM1,400m respectively.

Olivetti back to profit

Olivetti, the Ivrea-based electronic and office equipment manufacturer, returned to pro-

International

fitability last year with a net profit of 1,062m lire (£711,000). This was compared with a 1975 8,600m lire loss. The dividend however is again passed, writes John Earle.

Sales were 32.2 per cent up at 501,200m lire. Olivetti reports further improvement in the first quarter of this year.

Unicorp quarterly

From Union Corporation Group comes word that working profits of Winkelsbaak Mines rose from £7.5m in the December quarter to £9.7m in the three months to March 31 thanks to better revenue. But at St Helena Gold ore milled fell from 560,000 tons to 530,000, taking down working profits from £8.2m to £10.5m. Operations are moving from the richer areas into lower grades. At Kinross Mines working profits rose from £3.94m to £4.76m. But Leslie notched a working loss and down went the working profits of Bracken from £2.46m to £2.2m.

Briefly

offer unconditionally to the remaining shareholders.

WM LOW

Turnover for 28 weeks to March 19 up from £18.72m to £24.76m. Pre-tax profits doubled to £751,000 (£366,000). Interim payment, gross, raised from 2.5p to 2.54p.

AUDIOTRONIC HOLDINGS

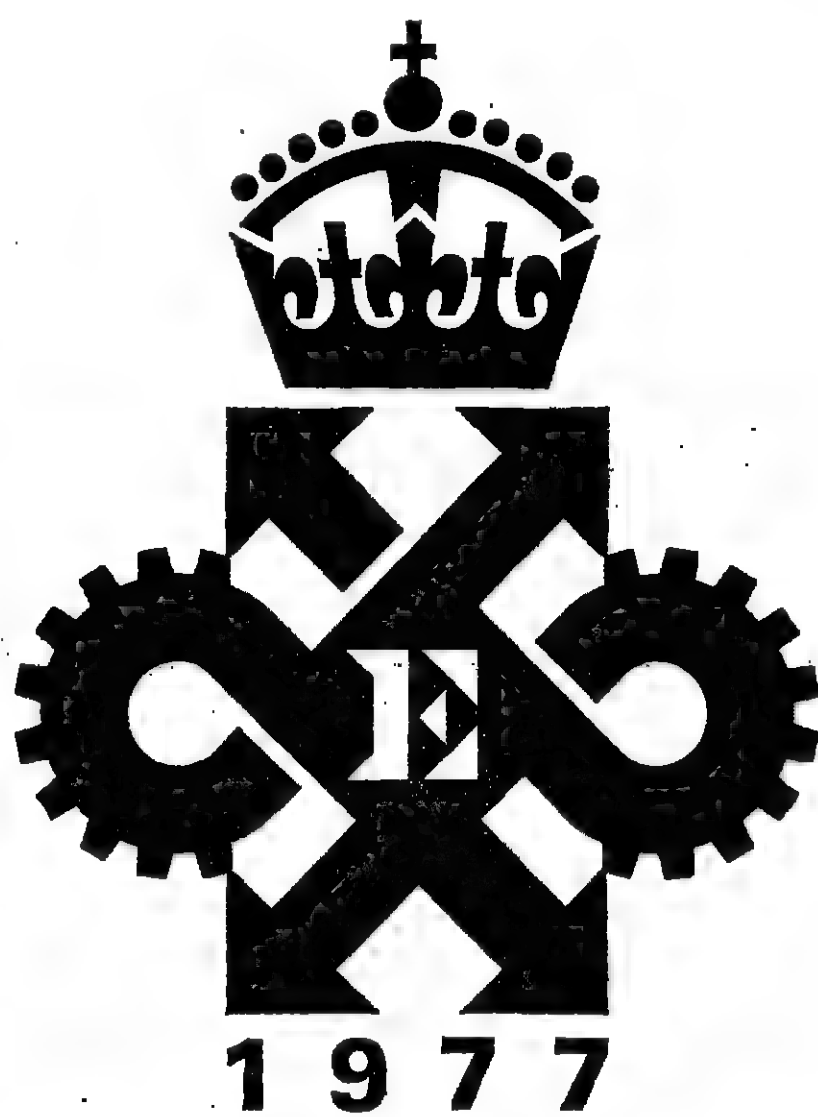
Turnover for 1976 rose from £17.97m to £21.77m, but pre-tax profits fell from £1.42m to £1.07m. Total payment held at 5p gross.

AQUASCUTUM & ASSOC

Sales for year to January 31 up from £13.35m to £18.97m and pre-tax profits up from £1.19m to £1.71m. Total gross payment raised from 1.91p to 2.1p.

COLLETT, DICKENSON

Turnover for 1976 up from £24.7m to £28.91m and pre-tax profits from £552,000 to £826,000. Total gross payment, 4.5p (4.09p).



The visible tribute to an invisible achievement

Our insurance and reinsurance broking operations have resulted in record 'invisible' earnings and gained us the Queen's Award for Export Achievement 1977.

C. T. Bowring (Insurance) Holdings Ltd., whose constituent companies trade worldwide as insurance and reinsurance brokers, has made an outstanding contribution to Britain's exports.

During the past two years it has increased its premium turnover in overseas currencies more than two and a half times, namely from £177,000,000 to £447,000,000 in 1976.

The constituent companies give advice in and arrange for every class of direct insurance for Government Bodies, Industrial, Commercial, Professional and Private Clients, and also arrange reinsurance cover for insurance companies and underwriters throughout the world.

Bowring

C. T. Bowring (Insurance) Holdings Ltd.
The Bowring Building, Tower Place, London EC3P 3BE. Tel: 01-283 3100
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Commodities

All base metals and silver lost ground on the LME yesterday, led by copper which was £24 down for cash wire bars and £24.50 for three months.

COPPER.—Afternoon.—Cash: wire bars, £245.50; 3-mo. LME, £246.00; 3-mo. futures, £246.00. Sales: 3,000 tons. Cash cathodes, £245.50; 3-mo. LME, £246.00. Sales: 3,000 tons. Morning.—Cash wire bars, £247.17.00; 3-mo. LME, £247.50. Settlement, £247.50. Sales: 1,000 tons. About half carried. Cash cathodes, £247.50.

All the subject matter
on all the
subjects that matter.

US & STRAIGHTS	Mid	Offer	Canadian	Facile
Australia B: 1083	1083	1083	1083	

[illegible]

DIVIDENDS

The directors are recommending to the shareholders at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 27th May 1977 final dividend of 2.75p, ordinary 25p together with such additional amount, if any, as corresponds to any reduction in the rate of the related tax credit for the current financial year below 35/66ths but not beyond 33/67ths. If the rate of tax credit changes to 33/67ths the additional amount will be 0.84p per share. The dividend will be payable as to 2.75p per share on 15th July 1977 to shareholders on the register at the close of business on 17th June 1977 and as to the additional amount, if any, at such time and in such manner as determined by the directors. With the interim dividend of 2.75p per share the maximum allowable dividends will have been paid having a gross equivalent of £438p per share (1976: £7.62p). The total cost of dividends to ordinary shareholders is £7.3m which will increase by £0.1m should the rate of related tax credit be changed from 35/66ths to 33/67ths.

RESULTS FOR 1976

Investment income in the shareholders' fund increased by 41% to £32.7m. Without the benefits from the investment of the proceeds of the rights issue the increase would have been approximately 31%. The pre-tax profits of Groveswood Securities were £5.6m and with the share of associated companies' profits brought the total income from investments to £38.8m, an increase of 49%. The shareholders' life profits were £7.0m after grossing for corporation tax and franked investment income. There was a transfer to the fire, accident and motor account of £7.2m. Premium income increased by 31%.

	1976	1975
	£m	£m
PREMIUM INCOME		
Life — annual premiums	70.0	50.3
— single premiums	36.3	26.1
Fire, accident and motor	236.8	181.0
Marine, aviation and transport	21.4	20.0
	<u>364.5</u>	<u>277.4</u>
PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT		
Investment income	32.7	23.2
Profits of Greywood Securities	5.6	2.8
Share of associated companies' profits	.5	.1
Shareholders' long term profits	7.0	6.2
Underwriting loss	(7.2)	(2.7)
	<u>38.6</u>	<u>29.6</u>
Expenses not charged to other accounts	5.7	3.5
Surplus before taxation	32.9	26.1
Taxation	15.3	11.8
Minority interests	1.2	.8
Net surplus for year	<u>16.4</u>	<u>13.5</u>
Transfer to catastrophe reserve	2.0	1.0
Dividends	7.4	6.1
Balance added to retained profits and reserves	<u>7.0</u>	<u>6.4</u>

The following are extracts from the statement by the Chairman, Sir Denis Mountain, Bt:

Including the gross capital appreciation in stock exchange investments our solvency margin was 49 per cent.

The real strength of a company lies in the technical reserves held to cover outstanding claims and unexpired risks. Eagle Star has an above average proportion of those classes of business involving claims for liability for personal injury which are most susceptible to the effects of high levels of inflation mainly because of the time that can occur between the event and the final settlement of the claim. We have consistently considered it necessary to follow a policy of making conservative assumptions regarding the *provision made in claims settlement* costs and have consequently set up strong provisions to cover future liabilities.

The cost of maintaining these strong provisions on an expanding premium income inevitably can produce an apparently worse underwriting result than would be the case if they were set up on a less cautious basis.

High rates of inflation have been associated with high rates of interest. Whilst it is always our aim to underwrite insurance business at a profit it is interesting to consider the overall results of our non-life trading. This involves the inclusion of pension fund contributions together with the investment income estimated to arise from the insurance funds themselves as distinct from that arising from shareholders' capital and retentions. This is shown in the following table:

Premium income £m	Underwriting result £m	Pension fund contributions £m	Investment income £m	1976 Total £m	1975 Total £m
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United Kingdom, marine and reinsurance	182.5	(3.3)	(4.6)	182.2	10.3	11.0
Australia	12.1	(.7)	(.3)	1.2	-.2	-.1
Belgium	24.3	(3.1)	(.3)	2.1	(1.3)	-.1
South Africa	28.3	-	(.4)	7.2	7.2	(.9)
U.S.A.	4.5	(1.3)	-	.5	(.8)	(.1)
Other territories	6.5	-.6	(.1)	1.2	1.7	(.5)
	<u>258.2</u>	<u>(7.2)</u>	<u>(5.7)</u>	<u>24.4</u>	<u>11.5</u>	<u>11.0</u>
Investment income attributable to shareholders' funds				14.4	14.4	8.9
				<u>38.8</u>	<u>25.9</u>	<u>19.9</u>

UNITED KINGDOM. The fire accident continued to be profitable. There was a substantial loss of £5.8m (1975: £2.8m) on the "All-in" account reflecting not only the unprofitability of private house business but also the heavy incidence of subsidence claims which in 1976 cost the group approximately £4m. The motor account broke even. In the accident account there was a marginal profit. Liability insurance showed a small surplus.

OVERSEAS. The actual improvement in the overall underwriting result was masked on conversion to sterling by the fall in the value of the pound during 1976. However this was compensated for by the corresponding increase in overseas investment income in sterling terms. The severe cut-back of our premium income in unprofitable areas was similarly under-emphasised because of currency fluctuations.

In Australia the underwriting result continues to improve. Belgium deteriorated sharply. In France for the first time in many years there was an underwriting profit. In the United States where our involvement is comparatively small we are steadily reducing our motor portfolio and this is producing a slow easing in the rate of loss. In South Africa there was an overall underwriting profit. Finally overseas satisfactory results were recorded.

LIFE. In the United Kingdom there was a most satisfactory increase in new yearly premiums of 74 per cent and in single premiums of 36 per cent. New sums assured amounted to £1,319m (1975: £856m). The annual valuation of the life funds has resulted in increased bonuses to policyholders. Profits transferred to the shareholders^a amounted to £4.0m (1975: £3.5m) net of tax with a crossed up value of £7.0m (1975: £6.2m).

GROVEWOOD. Grovewood Securities had record profits in almost every division of its business. The overall pre-tax profit increased to £5.6m from £3.7m which is a record for the ninth successive year. Turnover increased to £73.0m from £50.3m including exports of £6.8m (1975: £5.2m).

The Annual Report and full Chairman's Statement will be sent to shareholders on 3rd May 1977.

Eagle Star Insurance Company Limited
1. Threadneedle Street, London EC2R 8BE

[illegible]

Account Days: Dealings Began, April 12, Dealings End, April 22. § Contango Day, April 25. Settlement Day, May 3
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

London 01-405 8411 · Leeds 0532 457356

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Motoring

Porsche casts enticing bait on wider waters

With the recently introduced two-litre 924 Coupé poised to become the company's best seller this year and an exciting 45-litre 928 model due in Britain next spring, the Porsche 1300 is being expanded in both directions as the company seeks to cover a wider segment of the performance car market.

Since the introduction in 1964, the history of the Porsche range has been the 911 in its various guises, a car that has seen Porsche through its first 14 years as a car manufacturer in its own right as distinct from just a design office for other manufacturers (the VW Beetle was just one example of the company's engineering prowess).

If Porsche considers 14 years to be the logical lifespan of a model range, then the days of the 911 must be numbered. Certainly the concept of an air-cooled, rear-mounted engine is out of date, yet the beautifully proportioned 911, which began life as a 1300 bhp two-litre and has grown through 2.4 and 2.7-litre stages to become a full-blooded three-litre (and turbocharged as well, should you so wish), is synonymous with all that appeals to Porsche devotees. To thousands of enthusiasts life without a 911 would seem bare.

It is the car on which so much of Porsche's sporting success has been based, a car so rich in engineering and mechanical detail that its mechanical layout seems irrelevant. Today's designs are required to part with anything from £10,000 (for the standard 911) to almost £20,000 (for the Turbo)—the price of a new home.

That between 500 and 500 of them in Britain seem to do so each year is a measure of the 911's appeal, and was more understandable to me after reading what I judge to be (at £14,000) the most satisfying model of them all, the 200 hp flat six three-litre Carrera. The car is a masterpiece of fastidious design, superbly comfortable seats, comprehensive instruments, a logical control layout and a complete absence of styling gimmicks. Down to the smallest control button it looked and felt as if it had been designed by a craftsman, not a committee.

The one concept to be lauded was the electric for door windows, and all most welcome, as was the turn switch between the seats for dialling the required level of interior heating or cooling.

As I switched on I discovered a flywheel so light that when I depressed the accelerator the revolutions did not rise much as immediately achieve their terminal speed as though from the blast of a trumpet. One moment at 1,000 rpm the next at 3,000 or 4,000 (both 1,000 below the limit) according to the position of the pedal.

With all warmed, thinned and smoothly flowing through the dry-sump system I made my acceleration tests: 0-60 mph in six seconds looks impressive in print but it cannot reproduce the sensation as those wide from them when the latter group started their product-planning strategy.



Most satisfying of all—the three-litre Carrera.

needle shot up so quickly that I was rushing for the gear lever and a change to second only moments after leaving the line.

Another three seconds and we were at 80 mph; less than a quarter of a minute after the start and we were into three figures. Maximum speed, I am assured (and believe), is between 140 and 150 mph; 135 mph was as much as I saw in the room available, sufficient to sample the effectiveness of the rear air dam as an aid to high-speed directional stability.

That was the Porsche Carrera in its natural element. With longer acquaintance I came to admire the clarity of message from the front wheels delivered through the steering wheel rim (holding the wheel lightly, leaving the moving rim tell of every minor change of surface, camber and, most important for a competition-oriented car, adhesion).

The ride was firm, but not harsh, the steering pleasantly light and sensibly geared for the rapid and accurate changes in direction that are made possible by such meticulously tuned suspension. The brake pedal required a heavy foot (all power assistance is provided, for this would blur the feel transmitted to the driver), but it offered a level of deceleration almost as impressive as that of acceleration.

Yet there is another side to the Carrera's personality. With light throttle it is the most unobtrusive of town cars, able to burble along on a minimum of revolutions (even in fifth gear at 30 mph if the driver is so inclined). In that sense it is a practical car, but of course it is wasted in towns.

Driving it in this manner you find the long clutch travel more of a nuisance, and the heaviness of the gear shift in the lower ratios a bore; the level of alertness and the firm, positive movements that are so natural a part of fast driving become more of a chore at 20 mph.

Almost inconspicuously, the Carrera runs on two-star fuel, and consumption varies over a wide range; stopwatch testing gave me as little as 14 mpg, a main road journey across country at twenty mph gave me 18 mpg. Around eighteen to twenty mpg seems a reasonable amount of half-throttle acceleration.

To own a Carrera has to be an indulgence, but for those who can afford it it offers a driving experience that, if not unique, is extremely rare. Despite its performance it is utterly unflinching, and its appeal more to those who understand and appreciate total responsiveness in a car than to those who covet one merely as a status symbol.

Of the new 924, which I have also been testing recently, I have mixed feelings. It is a good car, a two-plus-two offering generous front and rear seats, but minimal rear-seat accommodation, initially designed by Porsche for VW/Audi, then "bought back" from them when the latter group started their product-planning strategy.

Consequently it makes wide use of VW/Audi components, the two-litre engine, for example, being similar to that used in the new Audi 100, though equipped with fuel injection and driving the rear rather than the front wheels. By moving the gearbox to the back, in unit with the final drive, Porsche has achieved a more even weight distribution and provided a pleasantly light and positive change through the short, stubby lever.

The gearing is unusually high (helping to a consumption of 26 mpg during a 100-mile test), but the 100, which gives high maxima in the three indirect gears (36, 62 and 96 mph at the 6,500 rpm limit) but only modest top-gear acceleration. Using the full revocation range I was able to reach 60 mph in eight seconds, which is excellent two-litre performance.

Very comfortable seats, a good control layout (except that the steering wheel is just a fraction low-slung), coupled with related, reliable, low-geared steering add up to quite a high standard of driving enjoyment. Against that must be set too much mechanical road noise and a lack of refinement in ride comfort that is difficult to reconcile with a price of £7,000.

There is no cause to doubt that Porsche's traditionally high standards of design and quality control have been built into the structure and mechanicals of the car, but cars must be judged within their price and market bracket on what a driver or passenger can see, hear or feel. It has to be said that several cars of less exalted image offer considerable competition to the 924 at a significantly lower cost.

However, I have no doubt that Porsche's 924 target of 600 United Kingdom sales this year will be easily achieved, for imperfections notwithstanding, the opportunity to own a Porsche for £3,000 less than the cheapest of the one that many may find hard to resist.

Hot-water washer

At last, a way of removing bird dirt and insect corpses from the screen without using up half the washer reservoir. Hotwash is a simple non-electric heat exchanger that fits into the heater's hot-water hose as well as the water line between washer reservoir and jets.

I had the heated washer liquid in a far more effective screen cleaner than cold water and easier on the blades, too. It also speeded up de-icing during a recent bout of cold weather. About half an hour's work was involved in fitting it to a Cortina, and though not an accessory add-on I consider it excellent value at £3.50.

It is made by the L-L division of the Allied Polymer Group, Albert Drive, Sheerwater Estate, Woking, Surrey.

John Blunsden

Broadcasting

In the first of the eagerly awaited £500,000 series of nine hour-long documentaries, Royal Heritage (BBC1 8.0), the Queen introduces some of the treasures of the Crown, an affectionate tribute to Ealing Cinema (BBC2 8.0), begins with Compton Mackenzie's hilarious Whisky Galore I and Beanie 76 (BBC2 9.30) samples a charity wine auction in France. New comedy Paradise Island (ITV 7.10) finds Bill Maynard and William Franklyn shipwrecked in the Pacific.—T.S.

BBC1

8.40 am, Open University: The Drawings of Seurat; 7.05, Tele. News; 7.10, The Royal Family; 7.15, The Royal Family; 7.20, The Royal Family; 7.25, The Royal Family; 7.30, The Royal Family; 7.35, The Royal Family; 7.40, The Royal Family; 7.45, The Royal Family; 7.50, The Royal Family; 7.55, The Royal Family; 8.00, The Royal Family; 8.05, The Royal Family; 8.10, The Royal Family; 8.15, The Royal Family; 8.20, The Royal Family; 8.25, The Royal Family; 8.30, The Royal Family; 8.35, The Royal Family; 8.40, The Royal Family; 8.45, The Royal Family; 8.50, The Royal Family; 8.55, The Royal Family; 9.00, The Royal Family; 9.05, The Royal Family; 9.10, The Royal Family; 9.15, The Royal Family; 9.20, The Royal Family; 9.25, The Royal Family; 9.30, The Royal Family; 9.35, The Royal Family; 9.40, The Royal Family; 9.45, The Royal Family; 9.50, The Royal Family; 9.55, The Royal Family; 10.00, The Royal Family; 10.05, The Royal Family; 10.10, The Royal Family; 10.15, The Royal Family; 10.20, The Royal Family; 10.25, The Royal Family; 10.30, The Royal Family; 10.35, The Royal Family; 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Deadline for advertisements to be received is 11.30 p.m. on the day of publication. On all advertisements, a copy must be submitted to the editor. On all advertisements, a copy must be submitted to the editor.

The Lord make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee.

BIRTHS

BEST—On April 19th, at St. Mary's Hospital, a daughter, Elizabeth Jane, to Mr. and Mrs. John Best.

FINCH—On April 19th, at St. Mary's Hospital, a daughter, Elizabeth Jane, to Mr. and Mrs. John Best.

GIBBONS—On April 19th, at St. Mary's Hospital, a daughter, Elizabeth Jane, to Mr. and Mrs. John Best.

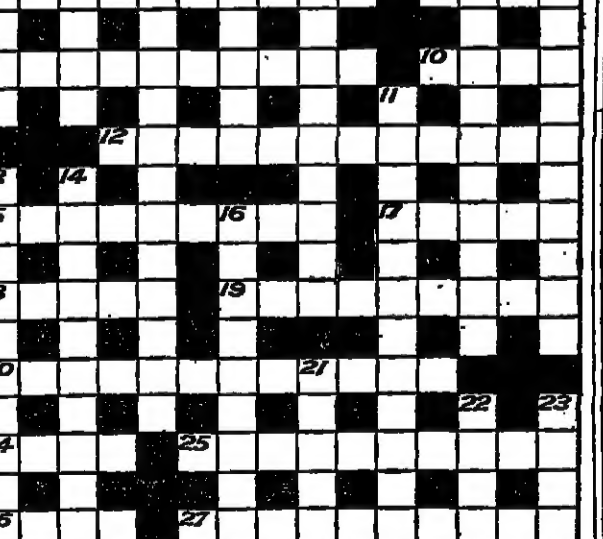
MARRIAGES

ALPHEANNE—On April 19th, at St. Mary's Hospital, a daughter, Elizabeth Jane, to Mr. and Mrs. John Best.

SACHS—On April 19th, at St. Mary's Hospital, a daughter, Elizabeth Jane, to Mr. and Mrs. John Best.

TUNNEY—On April 19th, at St. Mary's Hospital, a daughter, Elizabeth Jane, to Mr. and Mrs. John Best.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 14,581



ACROSS

1 Cook went for with such firmness of purpose (10).

2 Twin-set has soft appearance (4).

3 Nautical type wins the rubber on board (5, 4).

4 As I assumed at the start, it's continents (4).

5 Improperly recalls motorway's service engineers (12).

6 Kiss-in-the-ring. Postman's knock—they're pointless for the losers (4, 5).

7 Foreman imprisoned one in beastly hide-outs (5).

8 Stiff walk to the bar, so brace up (5).

9 Others use rebuilt dak bungalow (4, 5).

10 Water undertaking held good prospects (8, 4).

11 Risk factor tides (4).

12 Sharp located the exact spot (3, 7).

13 In order to get the protection of the chair? (4).

14 Accumulates masses of concrete material (10).

DOWN

1 Get-up popular with fishermen? (4).

2 Dismissal may be said for an inept American (4).

3 Take-off between flights? Rather a come-down here (7, 5).

DEATHS

AMSBURY—On April 19th, at St. Mary's Hospital, a daughter, Elizabeth Jane, to Mr. and Mrs. John Best.

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WILSON—On April 19th, at St. Mary's Hospital, a daughter, Elizabeth Jane, to Mr. and Mrs. John Best.

IN MEMORIAM

EVERETT—In loving memory of my mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Jane, who passed away on April 19th, 1977.

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FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

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FRANCIS—Funeral service for Mr. John Best, who passed away on April 19th, 1977.

SCOTT—Funeral service for Mrs. Elizabeth Jane, who passed away on April 19th, 1977.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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PERSONAL COLUMNS
ALSO ON PAGES 11 AND 31

ANNOUNCEMENTS

APPEAL FOR THE CHILDREN
Appeals for Legacies to support the world-wide work for desperately needy children.

PLEASE REMEMBER THEM IN YOUR WILL
Charitable legacies and gifts up to £100,000 are exempt from Capital Transfer Tax.

CANCER RESEARCH CAMPAIGN

TO THE LARGEST SINGLE SUPPORTER in the U.K. of research into all forms of cancer.

A GEM OF A THEATRE
The Playhouse, in Northampton, is a gem of a theatre.

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DO YOU HAVE SOMETHING OF VALUE?
If you buy or sell items of value you must read the Times Personal Column.

HAVE YOU SEEN THE BEWILDERMENT
On the face of a list of the four most bewildering items.

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HOLIDAYS AND VILLAS

ALGARVE
Casa Cortice. Beach villa for 6, own pool, available from 3 weeks from 16 June.

Casa De Luz
Luxury villa for 9, on the sea, with own pool, cook and maid, available mid-June to mid-July.

NORTH NORFOLK LUXURY HOTEL

SPRING BREAKS
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Martina's Parisian
Parisian style, elegant, chic. A collection of Parisian style clothing and accessories.

My No. 1 in Bl...
A collection of clothing and accessories.